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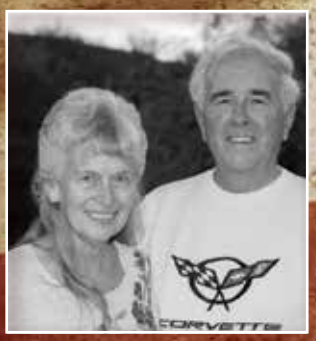

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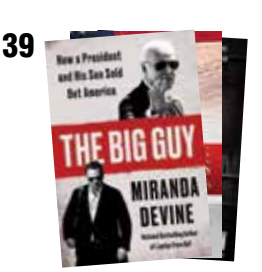

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Gary Benoit

Managing Editor
John T. Larabell

Executive Senior Editor
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Senior Editors
Paul Dragu • William F. Jasper
Alex Newman • Rebecca Terrell

Copy Editor
Liana Stanley

Contributors
Bob Adelmann • Dennis Behreandt
Steve Byas • Raven Clabough
D. Michael DeRidder • Selwyn Duke
Brian Farmer • Christian Gomez
William P. Hoar • R. Cort Kirkwood
Patrick Krey, J.D. • Veronika Kyrylenko
Andrew Muller • James Murphy
Dr. Duke Pesta • Peter Rykowski
Michael Tennant • Fr. James Thornton
Laurence M. Vance • Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

Creative Director
Joseph W. Kelly

Art Director
Katie Bradley

Graphic Designers
Lindsey McConnell
Jacob Vang

Director of Growth Marketing
Sean Casper

Advertising/Circulation Manager
Julie DuFrane

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Self-reliance, Health, and Liberty

Americans, on average, are some of the least healthy people in the world, if not *the* least healthy. They are certainly the least healthy among citizens of developed countries. This is mainly due to the effects of what could be called the "Big Four": Big Ag, Big Food, Big Pharma, and Big Government.

Big Ag companies produce pesticides and genetically engineered crops that enter our food supply. Big Food companies fill their products with preservatives and other additives. Big Pharma offers a cornucopia of drugs and vaccines for every conceivable ailment. Big Government purports to "regulate" these industries to keep us safe and healthy.

All of this, rather than making us healthy, has only served to make us sick and obese. Keep in mind that additives are in foodstuffs to increase profits for food processors, not to make them healthier or in any way better for consumers. Pharmaceutical drugs merely serve to treat symptoms, not cure or prevent degenerative diseases. And government regulatory agencies are staffed with former Big Ag, Big Food, and Big Pharma execs in a classic example of the fox guarding the henhouse. While America has more abundant food and pharmaceutical options than anywhere else in the world, it isn't really doing us any good overall. We are paying for our convenience with our health.

Why is this important? Briefly, a sick, dependent populace is easy to control. If people rely on a handful of massive companies to provide all of their food (that makes them sick) and medicine (that effectively keeps them sick), they can't really be independent. And the government subsidizes and protects these industries, making them all the more powerful. If they can control our food and our health, they can control *us*. While we shouldn't leap to unwarranted conclusions, such as that the government is telling Big Ag, Big Food, and Big Pharma to produce products that make us sick to more easily control us, there is an incestuous relationship between those industries and Big Government regulatory agencies, and the whole system does indeed profit off of us being sick, weak, and dependent.

Americans, historically, have valued self-reliance as the foundation of true liberty. Part of being self-reliant is being able to feed oneself and keep oneself healthy. If we're eating garbage food and medicating ourselves to (somewhat) counter the negative effects of that food, we'll never really be healthy.

So what's the solution? Should we expect Big Government to come to our rescue and reform its regulatory agencies to make the bad industries behave themselves? Of course not. Most Americans know better than to assume the government will protect us. Plus, the federal government should not be regulating (or subsidizing) food and drugs anyway.

Our strategy must be two-fold: Increasing awareness, and voting with our wallets. Knowledge is our best defense in this situation. Merely knowing how bad the industrial food supply is, and how dangerous most pharmaceutical industry products are, is a powerful first step in freeing ourselves from their harmful effects. Once we have sufficient knowledge of the problem, we can begin to take control of our health by making better choices. Buy local/organic as much as possible, and grow and raise your own food if possible. Reduce your reliance on pharmaceutical drugs, and improve your health by improving your diet, which may help you to wean yourself off of any drugs you are currently on. Remember, something is better than nothing.

These are just a few ideas to help people get started. Our cover story for this issue of *The New American* gives an overview of what's wrong with our food supply, some history behind government actions to keep us sick and control us, and some solutions and hope for the future. *The New American* has also published a Collector's Edition on self-reliance, which can be found at shobjbs.org or by scanning the QR code below.

Being healthy is an essential component of self-reliance, and self-reliance is the foundation of freedom. It's time Americans get off the sick train and reclaim their health.

— *John T. Larabell*

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Double Win for U.S. Constitution

On October 22, Judge Glenn Suddaby of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York granted a permanent injunction against a public-housing authority in Cortland, New York. It was a double win for the U.S. Constitution, as the injunction prohibits officials of the federally funded Cortland Housing Authority (CHA) both from enforcing unconstitutional lease language infringing on the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right to keep and bear arms, and from interfering with the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech on the government entity's Facebook page or other social media.

The leases the plaintiffs signed obligated them "not to display, use, or possess, or allow members of Tenant's household or guest, to display, use, or possess, any firearms … or other weapons … anywhere on the property of the CHA." However, Suddaby's injunction enjoins CHA "from enforcing the Firearms Ban or other bans on firearms against the Plaintiffs and other CHA tenants." The judge further stipulated that any changes in the lease agreement must protect current and future tenants' right to bear arms, ordering that the CHA lease comply "with the Second Amendment in all respects and … not violate the Second Amendment in any respect."

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Apparently, before filing suit in January this year, the three plaintiffs — Robert Hunter, Elmer Irwin, and Doug Merrin — used CHA's Facebook page and other social media to castigate the authority for infringing on their rights under the Second Amendment, and the authority shut down those disparaging comments.

Suddaby addressed that, too, enjoining CHA — again, a federally funded entity — from "prohibiting or restricting … access to … CHA's social media pages or message forums," including its Facebook page, and "from censoring or deleting any person's comments, expressions, ideas, likes, messages, opinions, or posts … so long as such content does not violate the terms of service of any social media entity, platform, or provider."

And, as Ammoland reported on October 23, the settlement also requires CHA to pay the plaintiffs' legal fees of $150,000.

UN: "Climate Crunch Time Is Here"

On October 24, the United Nations released its latest attempt at fearmongering about the Earth's climate with its annual "Emissions Gap Report." The report claims that unless the nations of the world finally get serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it will be impossible to keep the global temperature increase at or below 1.5 °C below pre-industrial levels.

According to the UN, without drastic and meaningful emissions reductions, the globe is now on pace to warm by as much as 3.1 °C by the end of the century. Global emissions must be cut by 42 percent by 2030 and by 57 percent by 2035 to align with the goals set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Said Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme: "Climate crunch time is here. We need global mobilization on a scale and pace never seen before…. I urge every nation: no more hot air, please."

The *Daily Mail* reported on October 24 that UN Secretary-General António Guterres (of "global boiling" fame) said that the world is "teetering on a planetary tightrope," and disaster is ahead if nations fail to reach new emissions goals for the planet. "Either leaders bridge the emissions gap or we plunge headlong into climate disaster — with the poorest and most vulnerable suffering the most."

Guterres claimed that "affordable, existing technologies can achieve the emissions reductions we need [by] 2030 and 2035 to meet the 1.5-degree limit." However, these "affordable, existing technologies" — wind and solar power — are not up to the task of powering a modern industrial society; not even close. And the main source of funding for them remains wealthy nations, who must shoulder the cost for everyone else.

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The UN stresses in the report that what is necessary is a "whole-of-government approach, measures that maximize socioeconomic and environmental co-benefits, enhanced international collaboration that includes reform of the global financial architecture … and a minimum six-fold increase in mitigation investment. G20 nations, particularly the largest-emitting members, would need to do the heavy lifting."

Approval of Supreme Court Increasing

Marquette Law School's latest national survey of how Americans rate the Supreme Court, conducted October 1-10, shows that they hold it in increasing esteem and regard — despite relentless attacks on the Court's ideology and integrity by the mainstream media.

Jennifer Sensiba, writing for *Shooting Sports Weekly* on October 21, notes that one of the reasons for the increase in the high court's approval rating is that Americans avidly support one of the Court's most controversial and important decisions, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* (2022). That decision, along with a more recent one, *United States v. Rahimi* (2024), which held that only "when an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another" may he be temporarily disarmed "consistent with the Second Amendment," is widely supported by those surveyed.

Douglas Rissing/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Regarding *Bruen*, the Marquette pollsters asked: "In 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that, subject to some restrictions, the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home. How much do you favor or oppose this decision?" Seventy percent favored the ruling, while just 30 percent disapproved of it. Americans' opinion on this topic could account for the rebound in public support for the Court, which had begun to dwindle.

Following the Court's 2022 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the media falsely accused it of taking away the right of a mother to murder her unborn child in her womb. However, the Court merely ruled that "The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion … and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." In the process, though, it overruled two previous decisions favored by the Left, *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992).

After the *Dobbs* decision, the Court's approval fell to 38 percent. However, Marquette shows its approval now at 45 percent, while a Gallup poll shows it even higher, at 48 percent.

Transgender Arrested in Police Death

Canada's Post Millennial reported on October 22 that police had arrested Anthony Alexi "Antonia" Quesen, 25, of Pittsburgh, a biological male who claims to be a woman, for the stabbing death of Pennsylvania law-enforcement officer Benjamin Brallier on October 21. Brallier was killed along the Montour Trail in Moon Township in western Pennsylvania.

Quesen was already wanted by police after failing to show up for court in connection with a 2023 felony robbery. Ironically, he had been released from custody without bail for that incident by Judge Xander Orenstein. Orenstein (pronouns they/them/theirs) proudly claims to be "the first openly nonbinary member of the US Judiciary." He has since been relieved of his arraignment duties because of an alarming tendency to release defendants accused of serious felony offenses, often without bail.

Brallier's murder is not the first act of violence committed by a transgender individual. For instance, in July, "Michelle" Silva Perez, a biological male who identifies as a woman, viciously attacked a worker at a women's shelter. Perez was about to be evicted after it was discovered that he wasn't a woman. Video purportedly showed him ambushing the victim, violently pushing her to the ground, and stabbing her enough to expose her internal organs.

Also in July, 16-year-old Julia Grace Egler confessed to killing her mother and her boyfriend with a .38-caliber revolver, as her mother was not supportive of her gender "transition." In June, 28-year-old Collin "Mia" Bailey was accused of killing his parents and shooting at his brother and his wife in Washington City, Utah. And in March 2023, 28-year-old transgender Audrey "Aiden" Hale went on a rampage at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, killing six, including three children.

Chardayy Penn/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Transgenderism isn't as harmless as LGBT activists claim, and there seems to be a real correlation between gender confusion and homicidal behavior. Why aren't leftists and the mainstream media — normally so adept at finding connections between violence and anything vaguely right-wing — picking up on the connection between transgenderism and violent crime? ■

QUICK QUOTES

"In the exercise of her duties as the Michigan Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson has routinely exhibited behavior that violates the standards of conduct associated with the retention of her law license. In order to uphold the integrity of the legal profession and Michigan's justice system, the AGC has been asked to revoke the Michigan Bar License for Jocelyn Benson."

Former state Senator **Patrick Colbeck** *filed a formal Request for Investigation of Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission (AGC) in October. His request included allegations of bribery, and it cited seven times that Michigan courts have had to force Benson to comply with election laws.*

Patrick Colbeck
AP Images

Ron DeSantis
AP Images

"How does this storm rate in the history of storms?... If you go back to 1851, there's probably been 27 hurricanes that have had lower barometric pressure on landfall than Milton did, and of those, 17 occurred prior to 1960.… The most powerful hurricane on record since the 1850s in the State of Florida occurred in the 1930s.… The most deadly hurricane we've ever had was in 1928."

Florida Governor **Ron DeSantis** *obliterated a reporter's attempt to blame Hurricane Milton on climate change during a press conference following the storm, explaining that the lower the barometric pressure, the more severe the storm.*

"Policymakers are talking about energy as if it's synonymous with electricity, but that's not the case. Everything that needs electricity, from the smallest lightbulb to the most advanced microchip, is made from petrochemicals…. Mandating EVs and renewable electricity is, ironically, mandating more use of crude oil…. Even if every car was electric and every home was powered by solar, you'd still need crude oil for the tires, the wiring, the insulation, the factory equipment, and the logistics to deliver it all."

In an interview with Tom White of investment website Benzinga, Pulitzer Prize-nominated author **Ronald Stein** *warned of the disastrous but inevitable effects of the planned phase-out of hydrocarbons.*

Chrystia Freeland
AP Images

"Today's release of a path for Made-in-Canada sustainable investment guidelines and climate disclosures from large companies will accelerate the flow of private capital into Canada, in turn growing our economy, creating good jobs, and advancing our progress to net-zero emissions by 2050."

Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance **Chrystia Freeland** *displayed her disconnect from reality on October 9 when she announced new federal environmental mandates for private companies amid a struggling Canadian economy. She failed to cite examples of how "sustainable development" promotes prosperity, because there are none.*

"Results reveal that the carbon footprint of food from [urban agriculture] is six times greater than conventional agriculture."

A research team led by the University of Michigan's **Jason K. Hawes** *published a report in the journal* Nature Cities *that accused townsfolk of polluting the atmosphere with excess carbon dioxide from their backyard gardens.*

— Compiled by Rebecca Terrell

MAKING AMERICA SICK
ONE BITE AT A TIME

Americans are among the most chronically sick people in the world. What does this mean for our ability to restore the Republic and be independent?

by Paul Dragu

Americans are among the sickest people in the world. Experts point to an unholy alliance between Big Food, Big Pharma, and Big Government regulatory agencies as a major reason for America's ill health. What does this mean for the ability to restore and maintain our freedom and independence?

Some believe America's health crisis is so serious it poses an existential threat to the Republic. Over the last few years, Americans have experienced a litany of jarring events that opened their eyes to problems they didn't know existed. Government-mandated lockdowns, the banning of religious assembly, fascist-style censorship campaigns, and mandatory medical interference have shown that the government is more likely to violate God-given rights than protect them. Moreover, millions of illegals have poured into a country already bursting at the seams with debt, division, and rising costs of living. Making matters worse, instead of taking an all-hands-on-deck approach to help tackle these problems, Congress has allocated most of its energy to foreign aid and military spending.

Americans have become increasingly angry and concerned. But one serious problem that hasn't received the attention it deserves is the nation's health epidemic. It's one that can't be avoided, especially if the citizens of the most powerful nation intend to restore it to its former glory. Six in 10 Americans have at least one chronic disease — that can include heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, hypertension — and four in 10 have two or more chronic diseases, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report published in October 2024. That's worse than the 45 percent who suffered one chronic disease in 2018, as reported in a study titled "An Empirical Study of Chronic Diseases in the United States: A Visual Analytics Approach to Public Health," published on PubMed.

These data imply that at least 40 percent of the American population depends on perpetual, life-preserving drugs. This is an alarming segment of the population. What happens if the production or distribution of those drugs is, for whatever reason, halted or paused for a significant period of time?

AP Images

Keep 'em coming back: Cigarette giant Philip Morris added addictive substances to its cigarettes to increase sales. It continued this practice with the food companies it bought out.

How We Got Here

By the 1980s, it was widely known that cigarette makers were in the business of creating harmful products. In 1964, the U.S. surgeon general issued the first general report linking health problems to smoking. The following year Congress passed the Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act, requiring a surgeon general's warning on cigarette packs. And in 1971, broadcast advertising for cigarettes was banned.

Nevertheless, it wasn't until 1988, during the jury trial of a federal case overseen by District Court Judge H. Lee Sarokin, that outsiders first got a glimpse into cigarette companies' internal documents. That confirmed a decades-long conspiracy to conceal the true toxic nature of cigarettes. A report from 1961 described certain ingredients added to cigarettes as "cancer-causing, cancer-promoting, poisonous, stimulating, pleasurable, and flavorful." The jury assessed $400,000 in damages against tobacco companies Liggett Group, Philip Morris, and Lorillard. The verdict was appealed, and by then, the plaintiff, Rose Cipollone, had died of lung cancer diagnosed to have been caused by smoking. Her husband continued the case on her behalf, but died during the appeals process.

After the cigarette companies appealed the case, it languished for many years in the docket of the U.S. Supreme Court until the son of the plaintiff, who had taken over, got tired of delays and court expenses and dropped the case. Twenty years would pass until, in August 2006, a federal judge found major tobacco companies including Philip Morris (then under the name Altria) and R.J. Reynolds guilty of civil racketeering charges for covering up the health risks associated with smoking and marketing cigarettes to children. The plaintiffs included the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and American Lung Association.

During this time, tobacco companies decided to diversify their holdings in order to increase their profits. In 1985, tobacco giant Philip Morris bought food juggernaut General Foods in a $5.8 billion deal. Three years later, it swallowed up another major food company, this time processed-cheese trailblazer Kraft. That deal was worth $13 billion. But the tobacco titan wasn't done. In 2000, it bought massive snack-food company Nabisco for $14.9 billion.

By 2010, Philip Morris had spun off its food businesses, but it nonetheless left a lasting mark on the industry. Health and food experts say the marriage between Big Tobacco and Big Food created a monster. Tobacco's contribution made already unhealthy ultra-processed foods worse by

Paul Dragu is a senior editor for The New American *and co-host of* The New American Daily *show.*

infusing them with addictive elements (more on that later), a practice many believe is still happening and serving as a major reason for America's chronic disease epidemic.

If you ask certain experts, Big Food is not too different from the Big Tobacco of yesteryear. During their multi-decade dalliance with food, cigarette companies mass-produced unhealthy, addictive foods that lined nearly every aisle of every American grocery store. They cranked out unhealthy popular items such as Kraft Macaroni & Cheese, Velveeta, Bran Flakes, Oreos, Ritz Crackers, Lunchables, and many more. And it turned out they deployed the same sales strategy they had with cigarettes: As with cigarettes, they targeted children. As with cigarettes, they pushed products more harmful than they wanted consumers to know. And as with cigarettes, they added addictive elements to keep people coming back for more. And all of that is still happening today.

A study titled "US tobacco companies selectively disseminated hyper-palatable foods into the US food system: Empirical evidence and current implications," published by the Society for the Study of Addiction in September 2023, details how tobacco companies made food addictive. "In part as a response to tobacco industry regulation, the largest US tobacco companies, Phillip Morris (PM) and R.J. Reynolds (RJR), diversified their investments by buying into the US food industry," the study says. These two cigarette-turned-food-companies "directly applied their tobacco product formulation strategies to their food company practices." Furthermore, the study says, "Tobacco companies formulated cigarette products to maximize their addictiveness at the expense of public health.… Products such as tobacco and highly palatable foods may be designed to maximize public consumption and industry profits, which may come at great expense to public health."

What makes this worse is that the addictive food is ultra-processed, made in factories and infused with additives and preservatives designed to increase shelf life (some critics remark that the longer the shelf life, the shorter the consumer's life). Such ultra-processed food includes everything from cookies and sodas to jarred sauces, cereals, packaged breads, frozen meals, and even ice cream.

AP Images

Cookie addiction: In 2000, Philip Morris bought Nabisco, the maker of Oreos and other popular snacks. Studies show that Big Tobacco's stint with Big Food made already unhealthy snacks addictive.

Ultra-processed foods make up around 60 percent of a typical American adult's diet, and about 70 percent of an average child's diet. Eating these foods has been linked to increased risk of obesity, hypertension, various cancers, and even premature death. A study titled "Artificial food additives: hazardous to long-term health," published at PubMed in February 2024, reported that additives "have adverse effects by increasing risks of mental health disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome and potential carcinogenic effects."

In addition to being ultra-processed and addictive, American food is coated with toxic chemicals. Pesticides are designed to kill pests and ward off disease, but are suspected of contributing to a litany of health problems. The debate between organic and conventional agricultural producers over pesticides is anything but settled. The conventional crowd believes the amount of chemicals sprayed on food is too insignificant to be harmful, and necessary to produce large yields. The organic crowd, however, says the chemicals are far more harmful than producers and regulatory agencies are letting on, and that ag producers could grow enough healthy food to feed the world without pesticides.

"No Other Country Has Anything Like This"

The crusade against unhealthy food is gaining momentum. On September 23, 2024, Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson hosted a four-hour roundtable discussion in the Capitol on nutrition and the dismal health of Americans. Experts and activists made the case that Americans are collectively sick, and that a major reason for that is not only toxic and addictive food, but the regulatory agencies.

One of the speakers — Dr. Marty Makary, M.D., a surgeon and public-policy researcher at Johns Hopkins University — said outright that America's food supply is toxic. "We have poisoned our food supply, engineered highly addictive chemicals that we put into our food, we spray it with pesticides that kill pests," Makary said. "We have the most overmedicated, sickest population in the world and no one is talking about the root causes."

Health activist, former presidential candidate, and founder of health-focused non-

profit Children's Health Defense Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. went so far as to dub the U.S. healthcare system "an existential threat to our country." He said that if the American experiment fails, the chief reason will be "because we let our country get sicker, more depressed, fatter, more infertile at an increasing rate while crippling our national security, bankrupting our national budget with healthcare costs." Then he echoed a sentiment held by Makary and other speakers at the event: "We are mass-poisoning all of our children and all of our adults."

Dr. Casey Means, a medical doctor and the author of *Good Energy*, testified that one billion pounds of synthetic pesticides are sprayed on American farmland every year. Her findings on the effects of those chemicals are alarming. She said the chemicals "are strongly linked to autism, ADHD, sex hormone disruption, thyroid disease, sperm dysfunction, Alzheimer's, dementia, birth defects, cancer, obesity, and liver dysfunction."

Means says she had a "come-to-Jesus" moment as a postgraduate medical student at Stanford, when she realized that "patients in America are getting destroyed." During Senator Johnson's roundtable, she rattled off a long list of data points she learned from independent studies while a student in one of the most prestigious medical programs in the country. Means said Stanford never taught her that professional organizations such as the American Diabetes Association and American Academy of Pediatrics, which are responsible for practice guidelines, take tens of millions of dollars from Big Food companies such as Coca-Cola and Cadbury, and Big Pharma companies such as vaccine manufacturer Moderna. She didn't learn that for each serving of ultra-processed food eaten, early mortality increases by 18 percent, or that 67 percent of the food America's children eat is ultra-processed. She didn't learn that there are more than 80,000 toxins, many of which are banned in Europe, in American food, air, and homes, and that these toxins are known to alter gene expression, microbiome composition, and the gut lining, and disrupt hormones.

Means said that neurotoxic and inflammatory heavy metals such as aluminum and lead are also embedded in food, baby formula, personal-care products, and the soil, as well as in many mandated medications such as vaccines. Medical error and medications, she added, are the third leading cause of death in the United States. She summarized her statement by saying that Stanford didn't teach her how to prevent and cure disease, only how to "drug, cut, and bill."

AP Images

Dangerous harvest? A majority of American farmers spray their crops with pesticides, long touted as a way to increase yields. But experts say these chemicals are a major reason Americans have so many health problems.

Kennedy, who wrote one of the most meticulously researched and damning books on Anthony Fauci during the Covid era, blamed America's unhealthy diet on corruption by the very institutions tasked with protecting the public. Pharmaceutical, hospital, and medical-school industries make more money when there are more interventions to perform on Americans, he said. And by requiring insurance companies to take no more than 15 percent of premiums, ObamaCare actually incentivized insurance companies to raise premiums to get 15 percent of a larger pie. "This way," Kennedy elaborated, "premiums have increased 100% since the passage of ObamaCare, making healthcare the largest driver of inflation while American life expectancy plummets."

He said every major pillar of the U.S. healthcare system makes money when Americans get sick, and that "the most valuable asset in this country today is a sick child." Hooking a child for life on Big Pharma drugs keeps the money flowing.

Kennedy painted a picture of a very sick country. He said Americans have fallen an average of six years in life expectancy compared to Europeans; Americans who died from Covid had an average of 3.8 chronic diseases; 74 percent of Americans are overweight or obese, including 50 percent of children, whereas in Japan only three percent of children are obese; America's health crisis is so severe that 77 percent of otherwise eligible men and women can't serve in the military; about 18 percent of American teens have fatty liver disease, something that used to only affect late-stage cancer patients; young adult cancers are up 79 percent; one in four American women are on antidepressants; 15 percent of high-school students are on Adderall; and half a million American children are on antidepressants.

"No other country has anything like this," Kennedy summarized.

The Fox Guarding the Henhouse

The revolving door between regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Big Food has resulted in the former not regulating the latter. Moreover, it has created an environment of sick Americans dependent on perpetual drugging. This unholy alliance, according to Kennedy, has "made our regulatory agencies into predators against the American people."

According to experts who spoke during Senator Johnson's roundtable, 80 percent of National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants go to people with conflicts of interests, scientists who are allowed to collect royalties of up to $150,000 on the products they develop at NIH and farm out to Big Pharma. Also, 75 percent of Food and Drug Administration funding comes from Big Pharma. And more than 100 congressional members support a bill to fund the weight-loss drug Ozempic through Medicare at $1,500 a month. It turns out that most of those lawmakers have taken money from the manufacturer of that product, a European company called Novo Nordisk.

That's why, the experts agreed, reversing this troubling condition starts with "taking a sledgehammer to corruption [and] the conflicts among our regulatory agencies."

The Mass-fluoridation Lesson

Federal agencies and guideline associations have a long record of allowing and abetting mass poisoning.

On September 24, 2024, a federal judge sided with anti-fluoridation plaintiffs and ruled against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The decision partially vindicated the "kooks" and "conspiracy theorists" who have for decades alleged that mass water fluoridation is harmful.

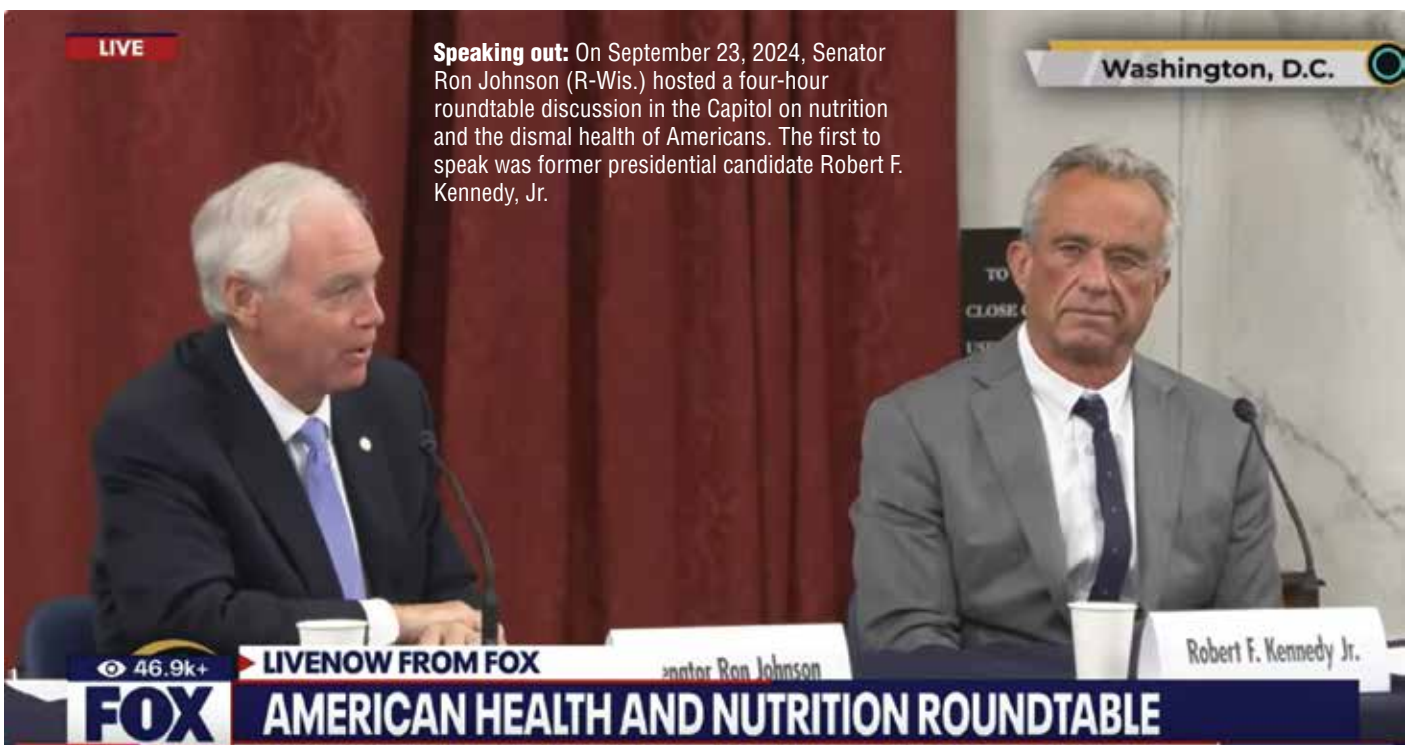
Judge Edward Chen of the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of California found "that fluoridation of water at 0.7 milligrams per liter ('mg/L') — the level presently considered 'optimal' in the United States — poses an unreasonable risk of reduced IQ in children." His ruling clarified that "this finding does not conclude with certainty that fluoridated water is injurious to public health; rather … the Court finds there is an unreasonable risk of such injury, a risk sufficient to require the EPA to engage with a regulatory response." Chen further said that his order "does not dictate precisely what that response must be.... One thing the EPA cannot do, however, in the face of this Court's finding, is to ignore that risk."

At the time of the ruling, 72 percent of the U.S. population was connected to a fluoridated water system. Dental cavity prevention has served as the common justification for mass fluoridation. The EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and even the American Dental Association have dubbed water fluoridation one of the greatest public-health achievements of the 20th century.

But, like cigarettes and ultra-processed foods, compulsive fluoridation has been more harmful than the general public has been allowed to know. In May 2022, the National Toxicology Program tried to publish a report that accused fluoride of being "associated with reduced IQ in children, at least at exposure levels at or above 1.5 mg/L." But dental officials at the CDC and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research pressured Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Richard "Rachel" Levine to prevent the review from being published. The American Dental Association also tried to suppress the report. The Justice Department represented the EPA against the anti-fluoridation plaintiffs.

The fluoridation ruling concluded a lawsuit that had dragged on for seven years, after Food & Water Watch, Fluoride Action Network, Moms Against Fluoridation, and other advocacy groups and individuals sued the EPA to stop water fluoridation in the United States.

Mass fluoridation began in the 1940s. *The New American's* predecessor publication, *American Opinion*, reported a great deal on the issue. While the main reason for opposition was the principle that forced medicine is unconstitutional and un-Amer-



Speaking out: On September 23, 2024, Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) hosted a four-hour roundtable discussion in the Capitol on nutrition and the dismal health of Americans. The first to speak was former presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

ican, we also reported on its dubious health claims. Here is an excerpt from a March 1968 *American Opinion* article by David O. Woodbury:

> Nowhere is fluorine safe; nowhere is it required by nature in living things ... though plants, animals, and people collect it willy-nilly, and suffer the consequences of the disease called "fluorosis." Doctors and scientists have always distrusted fluorine — it *is* a poison.… Until 1940 the Public Health Service warned against water contaminated with it. In 1957, T.R. Camp, Chairman of the American Sanitary Engineering Intersociety Board, published a table of eleven poisons and their factors of safety in human consumption. Fluoride was the only one with a safety factor of zero, meaning that it is dangerous even in minute amounts.

kardaska/Adobe Stock

Vindicated: Opponents of water fluoridation have been maligned and ridiculed for decades. But on September 24, 2024, a federal judge ruled in favor of Food & Water Watch, Fluoride Action Network, Moms Against Fluoridation, and other advocacy groups and individuals who sued the EPA to stop water fluoridation in the United States.

But none of that mattered. As with the campaign against experts who resisted the official Covid narrative, those who refused to get on board the fluoride train were ridiculed and pushed to the fringes of their profession. According to Woodbury:

> Former Surgeon General Luther Terry has come out against [fluoridation]; here and there courageous doctors such as the well-known Detroit allergist, G. L. Waldbott, fight on, ducking brick bats and invective. So does Dr. F.B. Exner, Seattle radiologist, who has just brought suit against what Waldbott calls "The Titans," for libeling him in [the American Medical Association's] popularized publication, *Today's Health*. And behind such crusaders come the expanding ranks of professionals such as the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, and brilliant young Dr. Albert Burgstahler, of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kansas. These people are rapidly getting tired of the monstrous conspiracy which seeks to strangle them and their protests. They are amazed and appalled.

Woodbury explained that improving dental health had nothing to do with the mass-fluoridation campaign. It was all about finding a use for toxic waste. He reported:

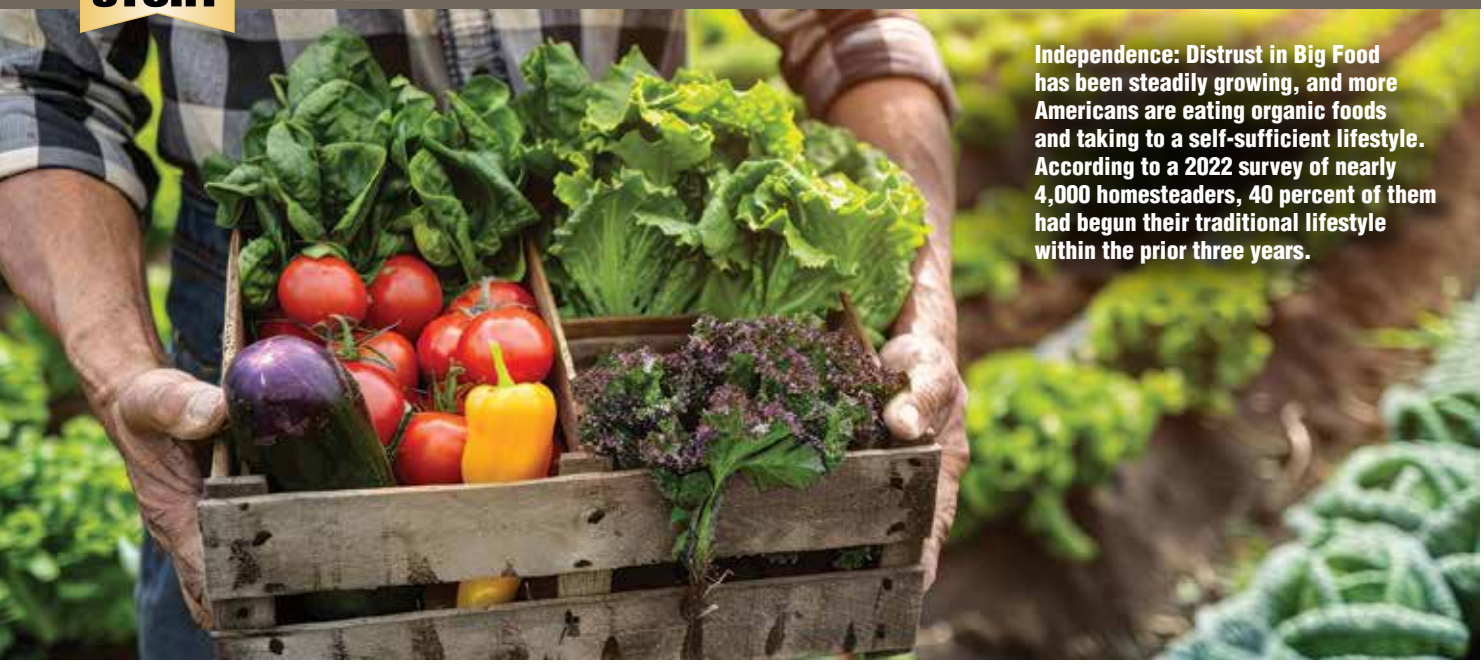
> Back in 1939, G.J. Cox, a biochemist at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, accepted a commission from the Aluminum Company of America to find a use for the sodium fluoride wastes produced by aluminum pot lines. Some fifty other industries had fluoride disposal problems, too; many were bedeviled by damage suits arising from the noxious effects of the poison on crops and livestock. Steel, brick, fertilizer, tile, and ceramics plants, oil refineries, metal smelters, and many installations of the Atomic Energy Commission were involved. The cost of elimination of the chemical was prohibitive. Couldn't this by-product be put to profitable use instead?
>
> Cox found that it could, and very simply. Why not dissolve the stuff in drinking water. Fluoride might be specifically required for healthy teeth, he thought. Cox was without medical background and had made no clinical researches on its behavior in the body. But his idea rang the bell. A rash of company largess to eager scientists soon brought good news. The discovery would be a perfect shortcut to glowing, everlasting teeth for all. And absolutely safe! It would be, the promoters effused, "the greatest health measure of modern times."

That has turned out to be false. Nevertheless, for more than half a century fluoridation has continued, despite there being no consensus on its supposed benefit, despite the existence of many other options for obtaining fluoride, and despite the risk it posed to humans.

Perhaps now that will change. Chen's ruling triggered immediate responses. Abilene, Texas; Yorktown and Somers, New York; and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District in Utah are among the cities and districts that responded quickly and stopped putting fluoride in the community water. By the time you read this, there will likely be more.

Americans Are Waking Up

While there are no landmark cases involving toxic food, Americans have already begun switching to healthier food and lifestyles. According to Statista, organic food sales have grown every year since 2000. Organic food consumption is forecast to grow by about $3.8 billion between 2021 and 2025. As for organic ag production, the USDA reports that certified organic U.S. land for growing crops or livestock



Independence: Distrust in Big Food has been steadily growing, and more Americans are eating organic foods and taking to a self-sufficient lifestyle. According to a 2022 survey of nearly 4,000 homesteaders, 40 percent of them had begun their traditional lifestyle within the prior three years.

CYBERUSS/Adobe Stock

increased from 1.8 million acres in 2000 to 4.9 million acres in 2021. Organic sales in 2021 accounted for about three percent of U.S. farm receipts, even though organic acreage was still less than one percent of U.S. farmland. Organic fruits and vegetables are the largest organic retail sales food category, surpassing $22 billion in 2022 and making up about 36 percent of all organic retail sales, according to the Organic Trade Association. And while not all organic food is as natural as advertised, the trend indicates a growing desire for natural food.

Raw milk is another burgeoning natural-food phenomenon. A June 5, 2024 *Wall Street Journal* article titled "The Government Warned Against Raw Milk. Why Are So Many People Drinking It?" paints a picture of a populace that no longer trusts government regulators. "The Food and Drug Administration has long warned Americans against drinking unpasteurized milk, which can expose consumers to salmonella, listeria and E. coli, and has the potential to cause rare and serious disorders," the *Journal* reports, before adding that these warnings haven't worked. "But in many corners of the internet, raw milk is presented as healthy, wholesome and cool. Some people brag about obtaining it in states where retail sales are illegal."

Perhaps the most interesting growing trend is that of homesteading, a lifestyle centered on self-sufficiency, one with a focus on growing and raising one's own food. According to a 2022 survey of nearly 4,000 homesteaders, 40 percent of them had begun their traditional lifestyle within the previous three years. If you take into consideration those who started four to six years prior, that means 60 percent of homesteaders are new to the farm game. Other general characteristics about homesteaders are that most are married (82 percent), are Christian (63 percent), are politically conservative or libertarian (63 percent), and have obtained bachelor's or master's degrees (54 percent). As to why so many are taking to homesteading, more than 59 percent are doing it for food security, and 58 percent say they want to eat healthier food.

Make America Healthy Again

Sensible Americans generally understand that without free speech, there is no freedom. The ability to criticize and expose power is a cornerstone of self-governance. They also understand that without a right to bear arms, they are glorified slaves. And they know that freedom of religion includes freedom to assemble. But they need to realize, too, that poor health and food insecurity also make them incredibly vulnerable to tyranny.

Most of the food in American grocery stores comes from a handful of processing plants located in California, Texas, and Tennessee. As for the pharmaceutical drugs so many now depend on, only 10 percent are produced in the United States. An astounding 61 percent come from India and China. All it would take is one very disruptive global event, perhaps a fabricated epidemic, to put America on its knees. If the supply chain snaps, Americans will become some of the world's most vulnerable and desperate people. And a starving and sick populace is easily controlled. When the food shelves are empty and the pharmaceutical drugs have run out, is there anything people won't give up?

It's time for America to get healthy and re-establish local food systems. The good news is that the two go hand-in-hand. Exercise and eating healthy food mitigate the need for pharmaceutical drugs. Buying local is healthier and helps local farmers and livestock producers stay in business. Planting a garden is hard work, but yields natural food. And best of all, a healthy, food-secure America is an America strong enough to defeat the globalists. ■

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BIDEN DIRECTIVE ON MILITARY INTEL SPARKS ALARM

The Biden administration has issued a directive outlining the use of military intelligence for civil law enforcement in the United States, against U.S. citizens.

by Alex Newman

Just weeks before painting Donald Trump as a Hitler-style wannabe fascist dictator ahead of the hotly contested 2024 election, the Biden-Harris administration quietly issued a controversial directive that critics say could authorize the U.S. military to spy on or help kill Americans on U.S. soil. The Pentagon denied some of the more serious claims, painting the directive as routine and noncontroversial.

But critics are expressing grave concerns. Former Congressman Ron Paul (R-Texas), speaking on his show *Liberty Report*, cited the policy as evidence that the United States is becoming a "police state." U.S. lawmakers, retired military officials, and a wide range of analysts from across the political spectrum also sounded the alarm about the measure.

While the directive does not create any specifically new authorities, it does purport to set conditions for military intelligence aid to civil authorities in situations that could involve deadly force. One key segment that has stirred much concern requires that, generally speaking, the U.S. secretary of defense approve the provision of any and all military intelligence assistance to civilian authorities that may involve killing somebody on U.S. soil.

The new directive also purports to allow the U.S. Department of Defense to share military intelligence with federal, state, and local law enforcement in connection with alleged violations of state or federal law. While it states that such intelligence sharing must be done in accordance with Pentagon policy, civil-liberties activists are sounding the alarm about the growing role of military intelligence in law enforcement represented by the directive and other policies.

Critics of the policy include General Michael Flynn (Ret.), former chief of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency and national security advisor to Trump at the start of his first term. Flynn, who remains a key leader in the Make America Great Again movement, reposted an image of the directive on his X account from another account. The post suggested that the policy attempts to legitimize a violation of the

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American and *author of* Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes *and* Indoctrinating Our Children to Death.

federal law (Posse Comitatus) that is supposed to protect Americans from military involvement in domestic policing.

Lawmakers have also expressed concerns about the policy on major media platforms. "This is exactly what the Democrats said Trump would do. And they're doing it," argued Representative Andy Harris (R-Md.) in an interview on Newsmax as concern over the directive was sending shockwaves across America. "This means that after an election, they could declare [a] national emergency and literally call out the Army in the United States."

Citing powers usurped by earlier executive orders, the measure in question is known as DoD Directive 5240.01, or "DoD Intelligence and Intelligence-Related Activities and Defense Intelligence Component Assistance to Law Enforcement Agencies and Other Civil Authorities." It quietly went into effect on September 27 before raising widespread alarm nationwide.

Among other controversial elements, critics and analysts warn, it could allow U.S. forces to support spying on and even deadly confrontations with Americans under certain circumstances. The policy points to another DoD directive governing the use of deadly force by the U.S. military on U.S. soil, even as the Posse Comitatus Act limits the role of troops domestically.

Early reporting on the directive by several media outlets suggested that the directive authorizes the Pentagon to kill and even "assassinate" Americans on U.S. soil for certain activities, including protests. However, the initial reports that went viral have in some cases been updated to provide a more nuanced view of the policy and its effects. Still, the policy raises troubling issues, critics said.

An article by GreenMedInfo that generated billions of views on social media highlighted a number of problematic elements in the directive. While establishment "fact-checkers" were quick to dismiss concerns, true experts did not. Georgetown Law Professor Rosa Brooks, for instance, told *The Washington Post* that the new directive represents "another small incremental step in the steady expansion of executive emergency powers that has been going on since 9/11."

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a longtime Democrat who dropped out of the presidential race to support Trump, is another prominent critic to blast the scheme. In comments made at a Turning Point USA event, Kennedy highlighted the irony surrounding Harris' recent claims that Trump might turn the military against Americans even as the administration behaves lawlessly.

> While the new (reissued) DoD policy may not grant any new powers to the military to assassinate Americans, as some have claimed, the number of statutes and broad range of largely unconstitutional executive orders represent a real reason to be alarmed.

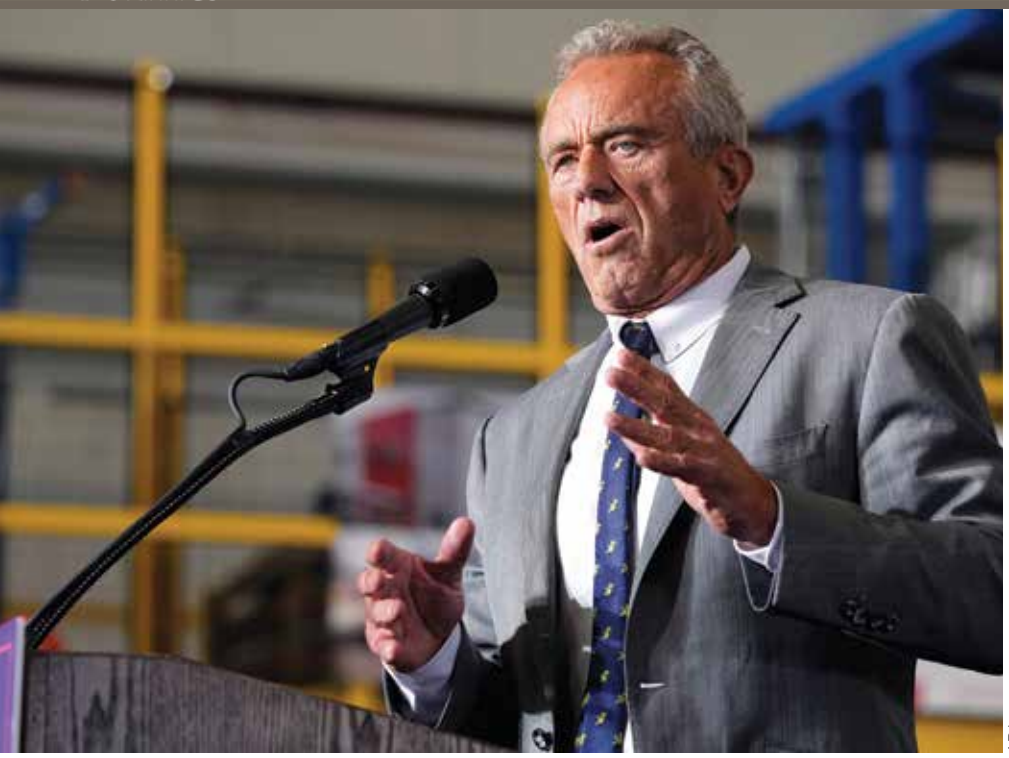
"The Biden-Harris administration has done something — two weeks ago — that has never been done in history, which is to send a lethal-force directive to the Pentagon changing the law to make it legal for the U.S. military … to use lethal force against American citizens on American soil," he warned.

"Technically now, it's legal for the U.S. military — under this directive, it will become legal for the U.S. military to shoot and kill Americans who engage in political protest because they disagree with policies in the White House," continued Kennedy, a strong critic of Biden and Harris' authoritarian tendencies.

"I'm not making this up; any of you can

General Mike Flynn @GenFlynn · Oct 16
RG @DieHard45RG · Oct 16
READ THIS FOLKS AND PASS IT ON
US Military CAN NOT use lethal force
Against US Citizens Under the Posse Comitatus Act applies to active duty military!...
Show more
DoD Directive 5240.01
189
2.8K
4.2K
170K

The directive: The Biden administration's Department of Defense directive outlines how military intelligence and assets may assist law enforcement in situations "likely to result in lethal force." This, understandably, has alarmed many Americans.



AP Images

Prominent critic: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has been an outspoken critic of the Biden administration's directive, saying this type of action is why he left the Democratic Party.

look it up," he said. "This is a Democratic initiative. This did not come during the Trump administration. This did not come from Donald Trump. It came from the Democratic Party, and that's why I left the Democratic Party."

A number of prominent journalists and former military officials also criticized the measure. From suggesting it is a tool to keep "Obama" in power after the election, to arguing that it is an unconstitutional violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, critics across social media have lambasted the Executive Branch.

In a statement provided to *The New American*, the Pentagon disputed the interpretation broadly circulated by critics. "The reissued directive does not reflect any change to DOD's views toward its role in supporting civil authorities, to include law enforcement; rather, it provides clarification and delineates the approval authorities for activities conducted by Defense Intelligence Components," Pentagon spokesman Sue Gough said.

"DOD issuances, including this directive, and the activities they govern, must comply with all applicable law, including the Posse Comitatus Act," she continued. "This directive requires a legal review of all requests for intelligence assistance, which provides further safeguards to ensure that DOD activities comply with all U.S. laws, including the Posse Comitatus Act."

According to Gough, the policies in the reissued directive governing the U.S. military's use of force on U.S. soil are "not new." They also do not authorize the Pentagon to use lethal force against Americans or people in the United States, "contrary to rumors and rhetoric circulating on social media," she said. "While the paragraph that's been most frequently referenced on social media is new to this directive, it does not reflect any change to DOD's policy regarding the use of lethal force by DOD personnel," continued Gough. "That is addressed in DoDD 5210.56, 'Arming and the Use of Force.'"

In the end, the reissued directive "simply affirms that this long-standing policy" also applies to military intelligence agencies and assets when they are providing intelligence assistance to civil authorities, including law enforcement, Gough added. She also said the release of the updated directive was "in no way" timed in relation to the upcoming election or "any other event."

In short, under the Pentagon's telling of the directive, the reissued policy merely provides "guidance and oversight" of its support for civil authorities, including law enforcement. Why the military is providing intelligence to state and local law enforcement that is not directly related to war in the first place appears to have escaped scrutiny by most apologists for the directive and the Biden-Harris administration as they frantically seek to attack all critics.

"The directive is consistent with and complements other DOD policies that provide guidance and oversight of DOD support to civil authorities other than intelligence assistance," Gough said. "This revision provides clarification and uniformity to procedures and constraints on DOD responses to requests from civil authorities, to include law enforcement seeking intelligence assistance from a DOD Intelligence Component."

The directive "affirms" that the secretary of defense "must approve support that may result in the use of lethal force, which ensures that these requests receive the highest level of scrutiny and review at the department, to include legal review," Gough concluded, apparently confirming some of the concerns of critics regarding the military's ability to participate in potentially deadly operations on U.S. soil.

Some conservatives have argued in behind-the-scenes discussions that the new directive could be useful to an incoming President Trump seeking to quell the unrest expected in response to an election win. However, the idea that the Biden administration would be working to hand Trump new authorities to clamp down on pro-Democrat, anti-Trump riots sounds implausible at best.

Citing Trump's own comments in a Fox News interview, a number of left-wing media outlets suggested that Trump was plotting to use the military to round up leftists in the event of mass chaos in the aftermath of the election. After acknowledging concerns about terrorists, Chinese Communist Party operatives, and others, Trump had suggested that homegrown radicals may be a more dangerous foe.

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within, not even the people who have come in, destroying our country," Trump said. "I don't think they're the problem in terms of Election Day. I think the big-

ger problem are the people from within, we have some very bad people, we have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by [the] National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Setting aside the specific details of the new DoD policy, there are several broader issues that are once again in the spotlight as a result of it. Among the concerns raised by critics is that the policy facilitates federal intrusion in local and state civilian governance, even paving the way for more military involvement in civilian law enforcement. Communists, globalists, and other collectivists have long been working to usurp control over state and local law enforcement and weaponize it against Americans.

Another major concern is the proliferation of so-called emergencies that are constantly exploited to trample on the U.S. Constitution. In fact, in September, the Biden-Harris administration extended Proclamation 7463, first triggered days after the attacks of September 11, 2001, to continue the state of emergency for yet another year. The scheme purports to authorize military involvement in civilian law enforcement, and even allow the Executive Branch to exercise congressional powers.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg. The Congressional Research Service pointed to more than 100 statutes purporting to expand executive authority during a so-called national emergency declared by the president. The Brennan Center for Justice, meanwhile, has identified 136 such laws. Countless executive orders purporting to authorize massive (and unconstitutional) powers for the Executive Branch are on the books already, many of them dealing with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Critics say it must stop. "The White House has demonstrated, in several administrations, both Democrat and Republican, 'threat inflation' for the sake of spending endless money on wars, and manipulating fears to hold on to power to continue to spend endless money on even more wars in the ultimate protection racket," wrote former Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio). "As a result, the constitutional system of checks and balances is being obliterated in favor of an Imperial Presidency, and, as the Constitution is eroded, so too, are our liberties."

The United Nations appears to be learning from the U.S. government's example. In its recently approved Pact for the Future, the UN and its member governments call for the UN to assume a "central role" in dealing with real and imagined "complex global shocks." Under the policy brief that was synthesized into that section of the final agreement, socialist UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that in a declared global emergency, all sectors of society must recognize the "primary role of intergovernmental organs [such as UN agencies] in decision-making."

While the new (reissued) DoD policy may not grant any new powers to the military to assassinate Americans, as some have claimed, the number of statutes and a broad range of largely unconstitutional executive orders represent a real reason to be alarmed. Even the 1807 Insurrection Act, as amended over the generations, purports to allow the president to deploy U.S. troops on American soil for certain purposes, authority that could easily be abused by a rogue president.

Of course, the U.S. Constitution does allow *Congress* — not the president — to call forth the *militia* to suppress insurrections, repel invasions, and even enforce (constitutional) federal laws. However, America's Founders never envisioned a permanent, standing army that could be deployed by a president at his own discretion. Instead, leaning on Switzerland's example, the framers of the Constitution had in mind a citizen militia that would be extremely difficult to abuse for tyrannical purposes.

The fact that this military intelligence directive is gaining so much attention is a positive development. It is long past time for Americans to have a serious discussion about the role of the federal government and the military in domestic affairs, and especially policing. With the federal government becoming increasingly bloated and tyrannical, Americans must work at the local, state, and federal levels to protect liberty and the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Eternal vigilance is required. ■

AP Images

No cause for alarm: The Biden administration has attempted to allay any fears over the directive, claiming it is nothing new, and that the U.S. military will not be used against U.S. civilians. Not everyone is convinced, of course.

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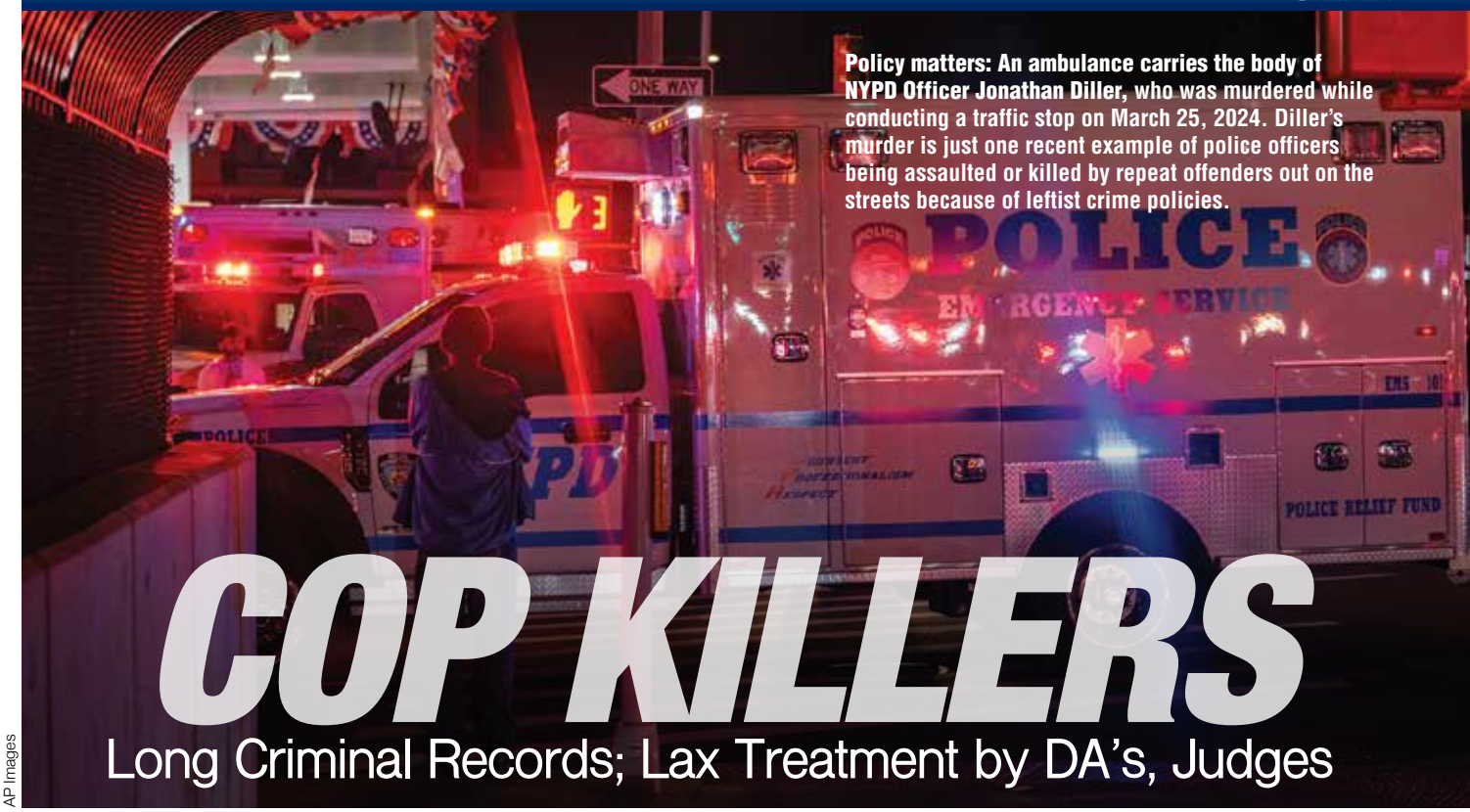

Policy matters: An ambulance carries the body of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, who was murdered while conducting a traffic stop on March 25, 2024. Diller's murder is just one recent example of police officers being assaulted or killed by repeat offenders out on the streets because of leftist crime policies.

AP Images

COP KILLERS

Long Criminal Records; Lax Treatment by DA's, Judges

As leftist-run states and localities impose radical crime policies, police officers are paying the price — some with their lives.

by Peter Rykowski

On the evening of March 25, 2024, New York Police Department (NYPD) Officer Jonathan Diller and another officer noticed a vehicle idling in front of a bus stop in Queens. After seeing an individual suspiciously enter the vehicle, they decided to approach it. The officers questioned the individual, Guy Rivera, and his companion, and asked Rivera to exit the vehicle. When Rivera refused, the officers tried to remove him from his seat. At that point, Rivera pulled out a gun and shot Officer Diller in the stomach, just below his bulletproof vest. Although he had just been shot, Diller successfully disarmed Rivera, who was also trying to shoot Diller's partner. In critical condition, Diller was rushed to Jamaica Hospital, where he died.

Rivera, the accused killer, had a lengthy criminal record prior to this tragedy. Arrested 21 previous times, mostly for drug and assault offenses, he had served two stints in prison, most recently being released in 2021. His companion, Lindy Jones, had 14 prior arrests and had served 10 years in prison, from 2003 to 2013. At the time of the shooting, he was out on bail for an April 2023 arrest for criminal possession of a firearm. New York City Mayor Eric Adams — whose own record on crime is spotty — expressed outrage that Rivera and Jones were on the streets. "April 2023. Less than a year, gun charge, he's back on the streets," Adams said at a press conference at Jamaica Hospital. "This is what you call not a crime problem, but a recidivist problem: same bad people doing bad things to good people. Less than a year. He's back on the streets with another guy."

After attending Officer Diller's wake a few days later, former President Donald Trump also pointed out the danger of soft-on-crime policies, stating, "We have to get back to law and order. We have to do a lot of things differently because this is not working. This is happening too often."

Unfortunately, Trump is correct. Officer Diller's murder is only one of multiple recent instances of law-enforcement officers being assaulted or killed by repeat offenders — people who shouldn't have been out on the streets in the first place.

NYC Crime Surge

Two years earlier, New York City was rocked by another murder of a police officer. On the night of January 21, 2022, two NYPD officers were shot — one fatally — when responding to a domestic incident in Harlem. Officer Jason Rivera was killed in the shooting, while his partner, Officer Wilbert Mora, was badly injured. The perpetrator, Lashawn McNeil, who also died in the incident, had already been arrested five times for charges such as assaulting a police officer and illegal possession of a weapon. At the time of the shooting, he was on probation for a felony drug charge.

Other instances of violence against police officers exist. On January 27, 2024, a gang of illegal aliens — who, from a legal standpoint, shouldn't be in the United States to begin with — vio-

Peter Rykowski is a research associate for The John Birch Society, managing JBS's legislative alerts, and is editor of the JBS Bulletin.

Multiple jurisdictions in addition to New York have limited or outright abolished bail, including Illinois, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. These policies have had disastrous results.

AP Images

Officer down: NYPD officers investigate the January 2022 shooting of Officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora by Lashawn McNeil, a repeat offender. Officer Rivera died from his injuries.

lently assaulted three NYPD officers attempting to disperse the group. Of the individuals who were arrested, five were immediately released without paying bail, with four of them fleeing New York City before being apprehended in Maricopa County, Arizona. Although the officers only received minor injuries, this incident could have been avoided had the city and state adopted a tougher approach to law enforcement.

Why are NYPD officers encountering such violence? A major reason is intentional non-enforcement of laws by New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg. On January 3, 2022, two days after assuming office, he issued a memo ordering prosecutors to avoid prosecutions or pretrial detentions for "minor offenses" such as shoplifting. According to data from Bragg's office, 60 percent of felony cases were downgraded to lesser charges in 2023.

This refusal to enforce the law is exacerbated by a 2019 statewide "bail reform" law that eliminated bail for a wide range of "minor" offenses. Because of this law, many criminals who would otherwise be detained until trial are released and commit more — sometimes violent — crimes. For example, a 2023 study by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that 62 percent of New York City suspects with prior criminal records of any kind were rearrested after being released without bail. Although the 2019 law has been amended several times since its original enactment, it remains detrimental to public safety.

On top of this, both New York City and New York State maintain "sanctuary" policies for illegal aliens, shielding them from arrest and deportation. This has caused the city and state to become magnets for illegals — who should not be in the country in the first place. Many of these aliens have gone on to commit violent crimes against police officers and citizens alike.

Nationwide Trend

Unfortunately, New York's pro-criminal policies are being replicated nationwide — and officers and civilians are suffering the consequences.

Manhattan under Bragg's radical policies is not an anomaly. According to a 2022 report by the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, the election campaigns of 75 local prosecutors in 30 states — responsible for protecting more than 72 million Americans — were financially supported by organizations connected to left-wing financier George Soros. Public records reveal that Soros has spent hundreds of billions of dollars supporting radical criminal-justice policies, and the prosecutors he has supported have dutifully implemented such policies.

Multiple jurisdictions in addition to New York have limited or outright abolished bail, including Illinois, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. These policies have had disastrous results. For example, according to a study by the Yolo County, California, District Attorney's Office, during an 18-month period when the county had a no-bail policy, 78 percent of suspects released without bail in the county were rearrested, compared to 46 percent of suspects who paid bail. Similarly, a 2024 report by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice found that 66 percent of suspects in New York State (excluding New York City) released without bail were rearrested.

Finally, 11 other states and hundreds of localities have enacted "sanctuary" policies for illegal aliens. According to an August 2024 report by the Center for Immigration Studies, about 425 jurisdictions have such policies, and "more than 10,000 criminal aliens have been released by local authorities" because of them. As with New York City and New York State,

these jurisdictions have attracted large numbers of illegals, many of whom have committed crimes against police officers and civilians.

Police officers are feeling the results of these policies. A notable example occurred in Chicago in May 2023, when Chicago Police Department Officer Aréanah Preston was murdered in the city's South Side while returning home after finishing her shift. Four suspects — all under the age of 20 — were arrested and charged with her murder. They had allegedly attempted to rob her but got into a gunfight after she drew her weapon. All four had prior criminal records; had been arrested multiple times for charges such as carjacking, armed robbery, and assault; and had repeatedly committed crimes while on probation for previous crimes. One of them, 18-year-old Joseph Brooks, had been arrested nine times in the previous four years.

On the West Coast, Oakland, California, was shaken on the morning of December 29, 2023, when Officer Tuan Le, a naturalized U.S. citizen who had been on the police force for more than three years, was killed while responding to a robbery. Again, four suspects were charged, all of whom had previous criminal records. Three of them — Marquise Cooper, Mark Sanders, and Sebron Russell — had previously been convicted of burglary in Philadelphia. Cooper and Russell had also been charged with burglary in Alameda County, California, though those charges were dismissed.

Meanwhile, New York's radical crime policies have affected the entire state. On September 6, 2023, a police officer in Yonkers, New York, was punched in the face by a man whom the officer was assisting after finding him unresponsive on a sidewalk. The officer suffered a broken nose and had to take leave due to his injuries. The assailant, Johnny McCray, had been convicted 13 times in the previous 20 years. However, County Court Judge Maurice Williams ordered McCray released without bail despite prosecutors asking for a $150,000 bond.

Of course, ordinary citizens are also being harmed in jurisdictions that ignore the law. For example, public-safety news website CWBChicago reported in February 2024 that in the previous six months, one suspect shoplifted 14 times in multiple stores in downtown Chicago. Except for the first instance, he was released without bail each time under a 2021 state law eliminating cash bail. In New York City, an illegal alien from Venezuela had been arrested six times over a span of two months in 2023 for multiple crimes, most of which were violent. Again, he was released without bail each time. Meanwhile, the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua has terrorized Americans and even taken over hotels and apartment complexes in cities including Chicago, El Paso, New York City, and San Antonio. And the February 2024 murder of Georgia nursing student Laken Riley by an illegal alien — who shouldn't have been in the country to begin with — shocked the entire nation. However, the murderer had been arrested — and released — three times previously in Athens, Georgia, including for driving under the influence. None of these crimes would have happened if the authorities had faithfully enforced the law.

Countless other examples across the country could be given. However, those

Crime wave: Chicago police officers speak at the funeral of Officer Aréanah Preston. Cities nationwide — especially those with radical, soft-on-crime policies — are experiencing crime waves, harming police officers and civilians alike.

AP Images

Support your local police: NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller's wife and son attend his funeral on March 30, 2024. To prevent such needless deaths, Americans must get involved to reverse soft-on-crime policies and support locally controlled police.

AP Images

Instead of expanding federal control over local law enforcement, our leaders should reject and abolish every existing infringement on local, independent law enforcement and prosecutors, including federal grants, fusion centers, and consent decrees.

listed above are sufficient to illustrate the damage rogue prosecutors, left-wing lawmakers, and sanctuary jurisdictions have done to their communities. It is essential that these pro-criminal policies be reversed.

Taking Action

What can be done to stop and reverse the destructive policies wreaking havoc in American communities? Already, push-back against these policies has begun. For example, radical district attorneys in St. Louis, San Francisco, and elsewhere have been removed or pressured to resign from office due to their pro-criminal policies. Meanwhile, some states, such as Texas and Georgia, have passed legislation restricting prosecutors' and judges' ability to ignore or subvert the law. And more than a dozen states have taken steps to ban sanctuary cities, helping prevent localities from becoming magnets for illegal aliens — and crime.

However, much more work remains to be done, since dozens of rogue prosecutors and judges, along with radical bail and "sanctuary" laws in multiple states and localities, remain in place.

We also face the added challenge of avoiding false solutions that — while appearing promising at first — could worsen these policies, along with our nation's overall situation. These include various proposals to increase federal oversight or control of local law enforcement. Although promoted as a way to rein in rogue prosecutors and soft-on-crime policies, such federalization is unconstitutional and could backfire. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution clearly lists the specific powers delegated to Congress, and nowhere is domestic law enforcement listed. Such powers are reserved to the states and, by extension, localities. Furthermore, centralization dilutes local control and accountability while strengthening big-government power. The federal government could easily turn around and impose on localities the same soft-on-crime policies that it originally sought to deter. Instead of expanding federal control over local law enforcement, our leaders should reject and abolish every existing infringement on local, independent law enforcement and prosecutors, including federal grants, fusion centers, and consent decrees.

To restore sound law-enforcement policies while avoiding false solutions, an informed and activated electorate is needed. The John Birch Society — the parent organization of *The New American* — works tirelessly to educate Americans and motivate them to action. Furthermore, it spearheads *organized* action in local communities to influence elected officials to uphold constitutional and limited-government principles. Since 1963, the JBS has operated its Support Your Local Police campaign, which seeks to protect local, independent police while resisting radical policies at odds with our nation's founding values. By creating an educated electorate, we can restore law-enforcement policies that protect our communities and align with fundamental American principles. Get started by visiting JBS.org/SYLP. ■

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Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

Long Live Tradition — The Democracy of the Dead

by Selwyn Duke

We hear much talk today about an "attack on democracy," and, actually, there has long been one. That is, an attack on that "democracy extended through time," that "democracy of the dead," to quote G.K. Chesterton, that we call tradition. Tradition, it could be said, is the glue that binds society together. Oh, this is where the older among us might hear in our minds "Tradition!" bellowed in that famous song from the play *Fiddler on the Roof*. Unfortunately, we've done more than just fiddle with tradition in our civilization; we've thrown it off the roof. This may seem of little consequence to many, since they may be much like the play's Tevye character, who confessed that he didn't know why his people's traditions existed.

Yet tradition's importance has been emphasized by thinkers from Chesterton to Anglo-Irish statesman Edmund Burke to ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius. Interestingly, too, upon being denied tradition, people will manufacture their own. Why, advanced tennis players and golfers even have their own personal "tradition," a ritual known as a "pre-shot routine," which for a given individual will be the same every time (e.g., bouncing the tennis ball five times before serving).

But most significant are the traditions that stood the test of time, even if they're not withstanding the test of our time. And perhaps no one mounted a better defense of them than the aforementioned Chesterton. It "is obvious that tradition is only democracy extended through time," he wrote in his 1908 book *Orthodoxy*, Chapter IV, "The Ethics of Elfland." "Those who urge against tradition that men in the past were ignorant may go and urge it at the Carlton Club [an exclusive, hoity-toity private members' club in London]." "Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure of all classes, our ancestors," Chesterton later added. "It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to the small and arrogant oligarchy of those who merely happen to be walking about. All democrats object to men being disqualified by the accident of birth; tradition objects to their being disqualified by the accident of death."

In other words and in essence, a long-standing tradition has received the "votes" of the majority of people throughout the ages, not just those who instituted it, but those who perpetuated it. So, we could ask, does the fact that one recent generation "voted it down" tell us anything about its validity? This isn't to say traditions can never be reviewed; it is to say there's a problem when tradition *in principle* is reviled, when it's relegated to history's dustbin merely because it's old.

A hundred examples could likely be cited, but let's just consider two. There was a time when dressing your "Sunday best" for church was *de rigueur*; today one could think many attendees took a wrong turn while heading to a soccer game.

Brian/Adobe Stock

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American *for more than a decade. He has also written for* The Hill, *Observer,* The American Conservative, *WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.*

Now, were you to point out that they'd never show up thus appareled for a wedding or funeral, you might hear that old line, "Does God care how you dress?" My answer is a resounding "Yes!" — I suspect He does. After all, God cares about everything that affects His children, and how we dress likely influences our mindset, and certainly that of others. Just consider: If everyone wore bathing suits to a function, would that not engender a different attitude than if all attendees wore three-piece suits? So perhaps this is another example of how looking the part helps you to play the part.

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Then there's the matter of teenage amorous relationships. Once called courtship, they were controlled through traditional rules, which might have dictated that a young man would "call" on a love interest, and chaperones were not unknown. But these guide rails were slowly, then more quickly, eroded. Courtship was replaced by "dating" — note that this term only came into usage around 1939 — which today generally has no limits save those prescribed by law (e.g., criminalizing rape). The result? Approximately four percent in the 1940s, the U.S. illegitimacy rate has risen to its current 40 percent. This, of course, is attended by profound social ills, with teens having children before they're mature enough to be parents and, worse still, choosing abortion or even using it as birth control. This, not to mention that prenatal infanticide and contraception have become nation-jarring political issues — and neither would be if yesteryear's chastity norms still prevailed.

In truth, tradition can have profound unitive and civilizing effects. Of course, it's obvious that people will have more of a sense of cohesion when sharing traditions than when walking to the beat of different drummers. It goes beyond that, however. Discussing his book *Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living* with NPR in 2022, anthropologist and cognitive scientist Dimitris Xygalatas mentioned that when test subjects shared rituals, their "heart rates would synchronize no matter what they were doing at the same time." This "shows that these rituals play a role in bringing the emotional reactions of the members of that community in alignment," he added. "And by aligning our appearances, aligning our motions, aligning our emotions, those rituals can actually lead to social alignment." Xygalatas also related that people "turn to ritual to find social connection and to soothe their anxiety." This is interesting because studies have found that athletes' pre-shot routines, mentioned earlier, also relieve "anxiety" or, as Tennis.com put it in 2019, can offer "stress relief."

As for the civilizing effect, Burke noted:

> Manners are of more importance than laws. Upon them, in a great measure, the laws depend. The law touches us but here and there, and now and then. Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us, but a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe in. They give their whole form and color to our lives. According to their quality, they aid morals, they supply them, or they totally destroy them.

Perhaps, though, he was just echoing Confucius — or maybe it's that great minds think alike. Regardless, the ancient sage's thoughts on the matter were recorded in the work *The Analects*. "If you try to guide the common people with coercive regulations and keep them in line with punishments, the common people will become evasive and will have no sense of shame," he stated. "If, however, you guide them with Virtue, and keep them in line by means of ritual, the people will have a sense of shame and will rectify themselves." Website Philosophy Break elaborated on this last year, explaining, "So, it could be a wedding, or it could be something as simple as a handshake: the Confucian point is that these cultural practices and social customs have a key role to play in shaping our moral lives, for they are the language in which we communicate our shared humanity and respect for one another."

Of course, as Confucius knew, not all traditions are created equal. In our time, we can benefit from Christian revelation, a fuller understanding of the virtues, of Truth, and can judge tradition under their light. But the bottom line is that it is the glue that can bind people together, can unite them, and can thus stabilize society. Can, that is — if only we consider the votes of our ancestors. ■

Dreams Delivered by Chick-fil-A

Two decades ago, Bill and Becky of Houston, Texas, started an ambitious journey to visit every state capital across the United States. Their adventures took them far and wide, but after Bill was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife of 50 years were unable to reach their final goal: Juneau, Alaska. However, the staff at their local Chick-fil-A at Springwoods Village found a meaningful way to help them complete their journey.

Knowing how important this bucket-list goal was to Bill and Becky, the Chick-fil-A team contacted the Alaska State Capitol. In a heartwarming collaboration, the Capitol staff eagerly joined in, helping to virtually bring Alaska to the couple.

In a surprise moment, the Chick-fil-A staff presented Bill and Becky with a scrapbook filled with photos from the Alaska State Capitol, along with souvenirs as keepsakes for their virtual visit. The souvenirs included a custom drawing of Bill and Becky in front of Alaska's stunning Mendenhall Glacier, ensuring that their long-held dream came to life, even if they couldn't physically travel there.

"Bill and Becky mean so much to our team, and we wanted to help them complete their bucket list," said Mike Magdaleno, owner-operator of the Springwoods Village Chick-fil-A. "It was an honor to play a small part in bringing a bit of Alaska to Texas for them."

In addition to the thoughtful gifts, Bill and Becky received other mementos to commemorate their "trip." Their connection to the Chick-fil-A team is more than just that of regular customers — they've attended weekly morning bingo at the restaurant for years, and Becky won free Chick-fil-A for a year during its grand opening in 2017.

This heartfelt gesture from Chick-fil-A not only allowed the couple to complete their capital-visiting goal in spirit, but also showed the power of community and kindness. The collaboration between the local team and the Alaska State Capitol helped create a lasting memory for Bill and Becky, turning a simple wish into a meaningful reality.

Chance Encounter Leads to Life-saving Kidney Donation

A random hike on the Y Mountain in Provo, Utah, resulted in a life-saving organ transplant for a pastor. Shiller Joseph, a 45-year-old pastor from Florida, had been struggling with lupus, a chronic autoimmune condition that severely damaged his kidneys and left him in dire need of a transplant. His health had declined to the point where he required dialysis three times a week. But in September 2023, while hiking the popular Y Mountain trail, Joseph met someone who would forever change his life.

Forty-nine-year-old Krissy Miller, from Provo, crossed paths with Joseph and his wife during their hike. During a casual conversation, Miller learned that Joseph had moved to Utah from Florida after advancing on the kidney transplant list. In that moment, Miller, who had previously been interested in becoming a kidney donor, offered to donate one of her kidneys. Tests later confirmed that she was a match for Joseph.

On April 2, 2024, Miller and Joseph underwent the transplant procedures at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. Their surgeries highlighted the power of human connection and compassion. Miller's selfless donation gave Joseph a new lease on life, freeing him from dialysis after three years and significantly shortening his time on the waiting list to just one year. Had Joseph remained in Florida, he could have faced up to an eight-year wait for a transplant.

Miller's path to becoming a donor began long before meeting Joseph. After seeing a Facebook post about a father in need of a kidney, she attempted to donate but was advised to improve her health first. Determined, she started hiking Y Mountain regularly and lost 37 pounds. It was during one of these hikes that she met Joseph, the stranger whose life she would soon save.

When Miller learned she was a match, she surprised Joseph with a homemade sign that read, "I kid you not! Let's get this surgery 'roll'-ing! You're getting a kidney!" Overcome with gratitude, Joseph now refers to Miller as his "sister and angel."

Mountain Angels: The Power of Community

Every year, 79-year-old Ursula Bannister makes a journey to High Rock Lookout near Ashford, Washington, where she scattered her mother's ashes more than two decades ago. Typically accompanied by family or friends, Bannister chose to hike the challenging 3.2-mile trail alone on August 28, feeling confident that she could complete the journey on her own.

"I've done it so many times, I wasn't nervous," said Bannister, a Tacoma resident. However, as she descended from the lookout, a misstep caused her foot to catch in a hole, leading to a severe fall. "By the time I sat up, my foot was pointing the wrong way. I knew right away I had broken my leg," she recalled.

Yelling for help, Bannister soon attracted the attention of a fellow hiker, who called 911. However, the rescue team estimated a five-hour wait. Desperate for pain relief, she asked nearby hikers for any painkillers, but none of the strangers had any.

As she lay on the ground, two young men at the lookout, Troy May and his friend Layton Allen, offered to help. May, a U.S. Air Force airman stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, instinctively offered to carry Bannister down the mountain.

With May carrying Bannister on his back, the group began the difficult three-hour descent. Along the way, a physical therapist fashioned a splint from wooden scraps, while an occupational therapist guided Bannister through breathing exercises to ease her pain.

Upon reaching the parking lot, Allen drove Bannister to Tacoma General Hospital, and May followed to ensure her safety. "I thought these people were behaving like angels coming from the sky," Bannister said, grateful for their kindness.

Bannister had broken her leg in three separate places, including her heel bone. While the injury was painful, the overwhelming support she received from strangers left a lasting impression. "That totally outweighed the broken leg," she explained. "We're all connected." ■

— Raven Clabough

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PROTECTING GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS

By adopting the Bill of Rights, the Founding Fathers made possible the ratification of the Constitution and secured the fundamental rights divinely granted to all mankind.

Understanding the Bill of Rights and how it serves as a bulwark against government encroachments on our fundamental rights is vitally important. That was true when this article by Colonel John Eidsmoe was originally published in our March 12, 2001 issue, and it is also true today. In fact, the case could easily be made that understanding the principles outlined in this article is, if not more important than before, at least more pressing, since the Bill of Rights is now under assault more than ever.

This assault became very transparent to many millions of Americans during the Covid-era lockdowns that extended even to the shuttering of churches in addition to the mandatory mask-wearing and vaccinations. Quickly on the heels of these rights violations came the weaponization of the law to go after political opponents, and the online censorship by the Big Tech-Big Government axis of views that do not fit the establishment line.

So please carefully read the following article — and then consider what you can do to save and restore our endangered freedoms. — Editor

by John Eidsmoe

With the exception of the Constitution and Jefferson's immortal Declaration of Independence, no document is more revered by Americans than the Bill of Rights. And yet the Bill of Rights remains controversial. For instance, pointing to the First Amendment, the ACLU and sundry other anti-religious groups have sought to banish religious expression on public grounds. Presumably, the ACLU would even take issue with the fact that the phrase "In God we trust" graces our currency. Then too, there is the Second Amendment, which in remarkably clear prose states that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Nevertheless, gun grabbers with a straight face tell Americans that the federal government *does* have a right, nay a duty, to disarm the populace. The Founding Fathers would be aghast.

The controversy over the Bill of Rights is not, however, peculiar to our era. Originally, the Constitution did not include the first Ten Amendments that compose the Bill of Rights. As a result, the anti-federalists — men such as Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, George Mason, John Hancock, and James Monroe — opposed the new Constitution. As one truculent anti-federalist pamphleteer put it, "the revolution which separated the United States from Great Britain was not more important to the liberties of America, than that which will result from the adoption of a new system. The *former* freed us from a *foreign subjugation*, and there is too much reason

John Eidsmoe is a retired Air Force lt. colonel and Mississippi State Guard colonel, senior counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org), and professor of constitutional law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu). He is also an ordained pastor with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (aflc.org), and the author of 16 books, including Christianity and the Constitution *and* Historical and Theological Foundations of Law.

to apprehend that the *latter* will reduce us to a *federal domination*."

Securing Liberty

Despite such anti-federalist sentiment, James Madison and the other Framers of the Constitution were not petty tyrants bent on crafting a system of oppression. They were intimately concerned with securing the blessings of liberty for themselves and for future generations of Americans. This is precisely the reason why the Constitution did not originally contain a bill of rights.

Our Founding Fathers believed in the concept of God-given natural rights. Jefferson spoke for the entire nation when he referred in the Declaration of Independence to the "unalienable rights" of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" with which all men are "endowed by their Creator." These rights, divine in origin, cannot be conferred upon a people by a bill of rights. Writing in 1775, Alexander Hamilton warned that "the sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature, by the hand of Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power." This, then, is the first reason the Framers of the Constitution chose not to draft a bill of rights. A second reason stems from the view of the Founding Fathers, expressed eloquently in the Declaration of Independence, that "governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

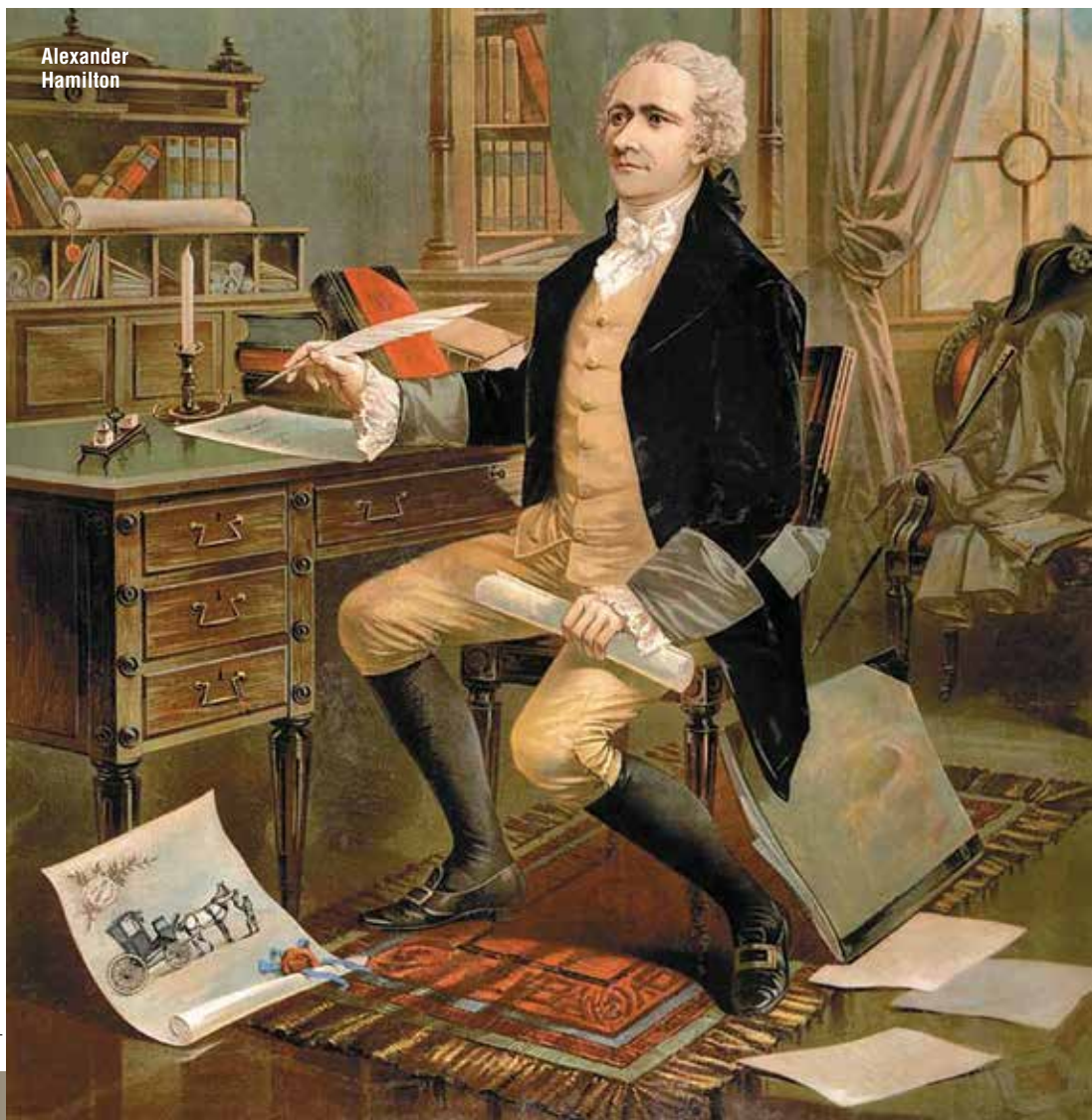
The Framers understood that they were establishing a government of limited, delegated powers. The new federal government was not a government of general or plenary power; it had only those powers which "We, the People" delegate to it through the Constitution, and no others.

If the federal government has only delegated powers, the Framers reasoned, it is unnecessary to delineate what things the government cannot do. The federal government cannot do anything that the Constitution does not authorize it to do. It has the powers delegated to it in the Constitution, and no others; all powers not delegated to the federal government are withheld from it.

That being the case, they reasoned, a bill of rights is unnecessary. After all, what is a bill of rights, other than an itemization of things the government cannot do to people? Based on this reasoning, a provision in the Constitution stating that the federal government may not establish a religion is unnecessary and superfluous. Obviously the federal government may not establish a religion, even in the absence of the First Amendment. The Constitution does not delegate to the federal government any power to establish a religion, so the government simply does not have that power.

In *The Federalist*, No. 84, Hamilton argued that a bill of rights was needed in England when the monarchy claimed nearly absolute power, but unnecessary in a Constitution like ours, "which is merely intended to regulate the general political interests of the nation...." Bills of rights, Hamilton continued, "are not only unnecessary in the proposed constitution, but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers not granted; and, on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than was granted. For why declare that this shall not be done which there is no power to do?"

Hamilton was invoking the well-known legal maxim, *Expressio unius, exclusio alterius* ("The expression of one thing is the exclusion of others"). By itemizing certain rights that are protected, Hamilton argued, we may be jeopardizing those rights we have not mentioned. It would be impossible to name all of our rights; who would think, for example, of the right to breathe air, or the right to read newspapers, or the right to travel? Hamilton's point was that

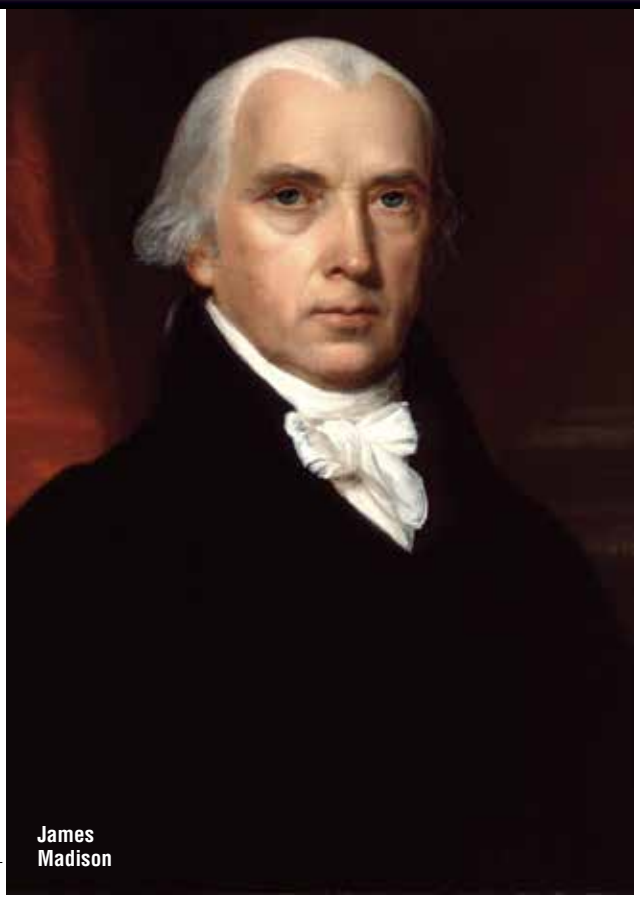


Alexander Hamilton

Wikipedia/Public Domain

if we name certain rights, sometime in the future a judge, legislator, or executive would conclude that because a certain right was not included in the Bill of Rights, the Framers must have intended that it not be protected and government is empowered to violate that right. This, it was thought, would undermine the very concept of delegated powers. Hamilton's argument had considerable merit, and the Framers addressed this problem with the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, as we shall see.

The Founding Fathers also thought a bill of rights unnecessary because of the nature of the federal system of government created by the Constitution wherein primary authority rested with the states. Each state constitution contained protections of human rights; many contained bills of rights similar to that which Congress would adopt in 1789. The protection of rights, it was thought, was primarily the business of state courts under state constitutions.



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James Madison

Birth of the Bill of Rights

Despite the seemingly sound reasons to oppose the inclusion of a bill of rights with the new Constitution, the anti-federalist case in favor of a bill of rights carried weight with the populace. Two anti-federalists, under the pen names Brutus and Agrippa, declared in a November 1, 1787 essay addressed to the citizens of New York that the

> … magna charta and bill of rights have long been the boast, as well as the security, of that nation [England]. I need say no more, I presume, to an American, than, that this principle is a fundamental one, in all the constitutions of our own states; there is not one of them but what is either founded on a declaration or bill of rights, or has certain express reservation of rights interwoven in the body of them. From this it appears that at a time when the pulse of liberty beat high and when an appeal was made to the people to form constitutions for the government of themselves, it was their universal sense, that such declarations should make a part of their frames of government. It is therefore the more astonishing, that this grand security, to the rights of the people, is not to be found in this constitution.

It was not for lack of trying that the proposed Constitution did not contain a bill of rights. Anti-federalist delegates Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts and George Mason of Virginia, toward the end of the Constitutional Convention, argued for a bill of rights. According to Madison's *Notes* for that day, Mason "wished the plan had been prefaced with a Bill of Rights, & would second a Motion if made for the purpose." According to Madison, Mason argued that such a bill of rights "would give great quiet to the people; and with the aid of the State declarations, a bill might be prepared in a few hours." Madison's *Notes* show that "Mr. GERRY concurred in the idea & moved for a Committee to prepare a Bill of Rights. Col. MASON seconded the motion." When the vote was taken, however, this proposal was soundly defeated.

It wasn't only the anti-federalists who were troubled by the lack of a bill of rights. Thomas Jefferson was in France during the Constitutional Convention and the ratification debates. After reading the proposed Constitution he wrote a letter to James Madison commending its many positive features. But he continued,

> I will now add what I do not like. First, the omission of the Bill of Rights providing clearly and without the aid of sophisms for freedom of religion, freedom of the press, protection against standing armies, restriction against monopolies, the eternal and unremitting force of the habeas corpus laws, and trials by juries.

Reaching a Compromise

As the debates on the Constitution proceeded, it began to look as though ratification without a bill of rights would be impossible. With many Americans concerned about the lack of a bill of rights, Madison and other federalists promised that once the Constitution was ratified, they would immediately work for the adoption of a bill of rights. With that promise, Virginia ratified the Constitution by a narrow vote of 87-79, and gradually the remaining states followed suit.

Madison was true to his word. As a member of the first Congress, he studied the many amendments proposed by the various states and condensed them into twelve amendments. These he presented to Congress as the Bill of Rights. After making numerous changes, Congress passed these 12 amendments in 1789 and sent them to the states for ratification. Ten of them were ratified by 1791 and are known as the Bill of Rights today.

What about the other two amendments? Actually they were the first and second. The first provided that if Congress were to vote itself a pay raise, the raise would not go into effect until after the next election. This amendment did not receive the support of the necessary three-fourths of the states at that time, but it was revived in the 1980s and became the 27th

Amendment in 1992. The second proposed amendment, which dealt with congressional reapportionment, never did receive ratification by three-fourths of the states. Had these been ratified, that which we know today as the First Amendment would actually have been the Third Amendment.

The adoption of the Bill of Rights did not mean Hamilton's concerns were ignored. Madison recognized the force of Hamilton's objection that naming some rights might lead to the forfeiture of others, and he met that objection with the Ninth Amendment which states: "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

As Madison explained on the floor of Congress,

> It has been objected also against the bill of rights, that by enumerating particular exceptions to the grant of power, it would disparage those rights which were not placed in that enumeration; and it might follow by implication, that those rights which were not singled out, were intended to be assigned into the hands of the General Government, and were consequently insecure. This is one of the most plausible arguments I have ever heard against the adoption of the bill of rights into this system; but, I conceive that it may be guarded against. I have attempted it, as gentlemen may see by turning to the last clause of the fourth resolution [the Ninth Amendment].

A Bill of Rights
as provided in the Ten Original Amendments to
The Constitution of the United States
in force December 15, 1791

Article I
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Library of Congress

The Ninth Amendment says, in essence, that the fact that certain rights have been singled out for specific protection does not mean that other rights not named are forfeited. It also reinforces the claim in the Declaration of Independence that rights come from God and depend upon government only for their protection, not for their validity.

The Ninth Amendment does not give the Court license to recognize new and previously unheard-of rights like abortion and homosexuality, as is sometimes claimed. It simply protects other rights *retained* by the people, not rights newly acquired. To be protected by the Ninth Amendment, a right must have been recognized and protected under then-existing English and American common law.

Madison strongly believed that the new federal government had only limited, delegated powers, and he was careful to ensure that the Bill of Rights did not neutralize that concept. He therefore proposed the Tenth Amendment, which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

In one sense the Ninth and Tenth Amendments are mere truisms, for they simply state principles that the Framers assumed were generally understood. But these principles are the cornerstones of freedom and the Framers realized that future generations might not appreciate the divine origin of human rights or the danger of government power. Without these amendments, the Bill of Rights might have undermined these principles. With the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, the Bill of Rights reinforces those principles.

The Congress of 1789 also appreciated the fact that the protection of human rights was the function of state constitutions and state courts. As a result, they made the Bill of Rights applicable only to the federal government, not to state or local governments. Note that the First Amendment begins, "Congress shall make no law...." In *Barron v. Baltimore* (1833) Chief Justice John Marshall declared for a unanimous Supreme Court that:

> … the fifth amendment must be understood as restraining the power of the general government, not as applicable to the states. In their several constitutions they have imposed such restrictions on their respective governments as their own wisdom suggested, such as they deemed most proper for themselves.

Not until the 20th century were many of the rights in the Bill of Rights made applicable to the states. This was accomplished through a legal theory known as the "incorporation doctrine" which holds that the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment incorporates much of the Bill of Rights and applies it to the states. This clearly was not the intent of those who wrote the Bill of Rights. It is also a dubious interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment, but that is beyond the scope of this article.

The Framers understood the divine origin of human rights and the danger of government power. By adopting the Bill of Rights, they brought the Constitution more closely in line with the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

But while the first 10 amendments to the Constitution limit the power of the federal government, most of the remaining amendments increase the federal government's power. Have subsequent generations lost the Framers' wisdom? ■

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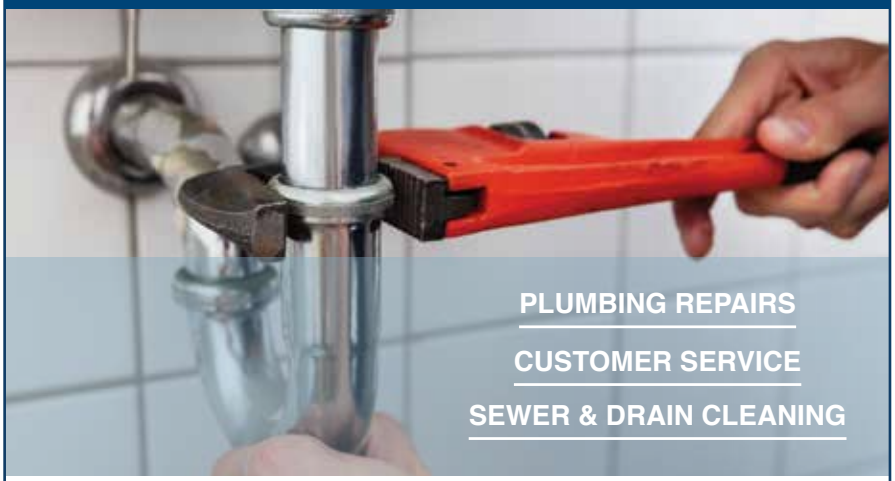

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Two Against One

ABC Chicago reported on October 15 about the attempted armed robbery of an off-duty corrections officer. Police later explained that the 24-year-old off-duty officer was walking down the street late at night when an SUV pulled up and two armed men jumped out. The men demanded cash from the officer, who tried to flee. One of the armed robbers fired at the officer, who pulled out his own gun and fired back, hitting one of the suspects.

Chicago police later arrested 32-year-old Desmond White, who they believe is the suspect wounded in the shooting, and charged him with "attempted first-degree murder, attempted robbery while armed with a firearm and being an armed habitual criminal."

Neighbors were disturbed by the incident. "I'm very surprised…. The neighborhood is very safe in terms of violent crime…. On this street is a hotel, as well as two wedding venues, some restaurants, the headquarters of Google," West Loop resident Misse Daniel told WGNTV.com.

Juvenile Carjackers?

In another wild story out of Chicago, ABC7Chicago.com reported on October 24 about a carjacking attempt by multiple thieves that ended with gunshots.

Chicago police say a 47-year-old man was in his Toyota Camry when four individuals attacked him and began taking his car from him by force. One of the suspects even pulled out a "chemical agent" like bear mace and sprayed it at the man in an attempt to disorient him and steal his car. Fortunately, the victim, who had both his Firearm Owner's Identification and Concealed Carry License, pulled out his own firearm and shot at the assailants. In the melee, the victim was able to shoot one of the suspects, but the accomplices were still able to flee the scene in the victim's vehicle.

The wounded suspect left at the scene was later identified as a 16-year-old, and will be treated as a juvenile in the criminal courts. The victim was treated at the scene for minor injuries and is expected to make a full recovery.

Retired, But He's Still Got It!

In a third story out of Chicago, CBS News reported on October 24 about another attempted car theft that was interrupted by a lawfully armed man.

In this incident, a retired police officer was alerted by a neighbor that someone was trying to break in to his car. The 73-year-old remembered his law-enforcement training and rushed downstairs, confronting the criminal. Even though the retired cop was armed and he warned the would-be car thief to leave, the thug must have thought that due to the victim's age, he could physically overpower the man and steal his gun. The car thief lunged at the man and tried grabbing his gun, but the retired cop, who served 30 years on the force, discharged his gun, hitting the suspect in the shoulder.

Neighbor Terrell Jackson lauded the retired officer's actions and told CBS Chicago, "You know, he handled himself very well with the situation. He did it very professional…. We not saying go out and be vigilantes, but you definitely want the community to stick together for things like this."

Legal analyst Irv Miller explained to CBS Chicago that, based on the known details, the man's actions appear to be justified under Illinois state law. "If you are in fear of your life, if you're in a situation where somebody is committing a felony against you, and you suspect that you could really be hurt, if you have a concealed carry license, you have the right to shoot that person, even if you kill the person, because the law allows you to use a firearm to defend yourself if you're being attacked."

"What We Would Have All Done"

The Post and Courier reported out of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on October 24 about a deadly home invasion. Police say the incident occurred around 7:40 p.m., when the 34-year-old suspect, Ryan Surujnauth, unlawfully entered a home. He was confronted by an armed homeowner, who shot him multiple times, mortally wounding him.

The area's top prosecutor, Solicitor Jimmy Richardson, explained to *The Post and Courier* that this appears to be a textbook case of lawful self-defense. "This guy did exactly what we would have all done…. There's not going to be any charges [against the homeowner] in that case."

Confusion in Oklahoma

Oklahoma might be pro-Second Amendment, but whether or not Oklahomans can carry their firearms when they cast their ballots in the upcoming presidential election depends on the polling location.

KOCO.com reported on October 24 that the answer is a simple "no" if the polling place is located on public property, but it becomes more of a case-by-case basis if the polling place is located on private property.

Ed Blau, an attorney at Blau Law Firm, explained that "Polling places being on private property, at a church, school or private business, the people that visit there have to comply with the rules of that property. You can't go in and smoke a cigarette. You can't start a fight…. As far as the law goes, if the polling place is at a public school, it is illegal for a person to leave their vehicle with a firearm. So, it would automatically be a no-gun zone."

Don Spencer, the president of the Oklahoma Second Amendment Association, bemoaned the state's law regulating the matter and complained that "Oklahoma made sure that this is extremely complicated." Spencer wants to change state law so that residents can carry wherever they vote. "We actually have legislation written up for the next legislative session to clarify that a person, no matter where the polling place is, that they would be able to carry a concealed handgun while at the polling place…. We know you do not give up one right just to exercise another," he told KOCO. ■

— Patrick Krey

THE REVIEW

Dissecting the Biden Crime Family

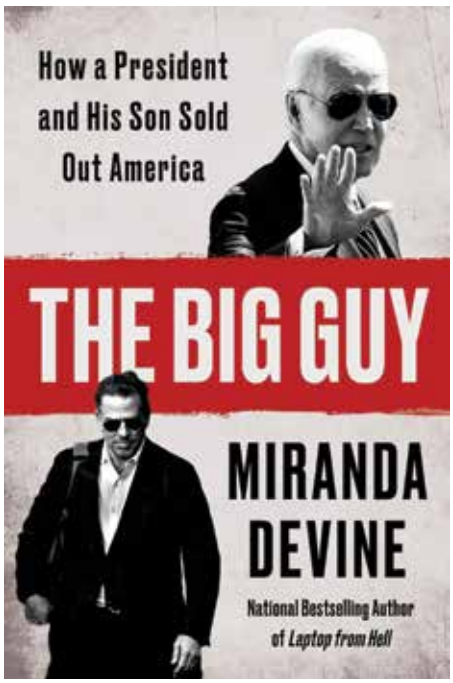
by William P. Hoar

***The Big Guy: How a President and His Son Sold Out America*,** by Miranda Devine, New York: Broadside Books, 2024, 400 pages, hardcover.

Shady businesses never produce sunny lives. When one is examining the Biden crime family, you're talking about the very dark side of the street.

To be sure, it sounds appealing to maintain that crime doesn't pay. However, corruption certainly does. And, while politics certainly plays a big part in this book, at its heart is how corruption pays. Yes, we have trouble right here in old D.C. — with a capital "B" that stands for the "Big Guy" Joe Biden, the other Bidens, and those who are beholden to them.

The author reminds us that places such as China, Russia, and Ukraine are known to be notoriously corrupt — and that is just where we see how "the Biden family traded cash for Joe's good graces." In such places, it is "implicitly understood that you don't pay bribes to government officials; you pay their family members."



And, as we learn, sometimes 10 percent is to be held by Hunter Biden for the Big Guy. The Big Guy, as used in the book's title, is the code the business partners used for Joe Biden.

As the evidence continued to mount, writes the author, it was clear that this was "precisely how the Biden family did business." Yet, "Democrats and their many friends in the media continued to insist that Joe had done 'nothing wrong.'" Then came the "Laptop from Hell," as it came to be known.

Lead-up Hitter: Laptop from Hell

It was just four years ago, as we write, about three weeks before the 2020 election, that the *New York Post* published its first article on the shocking and sordid contents of Hunter Biden's laptop. Details about that are included in *The Big Guy: How a President and His Son Sold Out America*, by Miranda Devine. She also wrote an earlier book called *Laptop from Hell* on some of the dealings in Ukraine and China; this book under review, the bigger story in her view, turned out "to be the coverup, and that is what this book is about." Devine is a *New York Post* columnist and a Fox News contributor. She also works for the Australian media as a *Daily Telegraph* columnist and a Sky News contributor.

If the reader did not believe in a "Deep State" before reading this volume, *The Big Guy* is likely to convince him of its nefarious existence. The story related by Devine does, as she convincingly lays it out, cover how "the FBI, the CIA, the State Department and Department of Justice conspired to protect Joe, his crack addict son Hunter and his scandal-prone brother Jim from the consequences of their reckless greed. The extent and nature of their crimes are coming to light as the United States and the world it leads face grave dangers from the very countries where the Bidens made millions of dollars."

You probably will want to wash your hands after you finish with these pages.

Oh, yes, despite contentions made even

today (albeit by liars), the laptop and its contents are real. And that has been admitted by the government. As Senator John Kennedy (R-La.) has recently pointed out, "The FBI even used the laptop to prosecute Hunter Biden's gun charge conviction."

"Pre-bunking" a True, but Embarrassing, Account

That particular conviction is still in the future during the time covered by *The Big Guy.* There are a lot of moving parts in play, and the topics and periods necessarily jump around a bit.

Making matters a bit more manageable, each chapter (in a quasi-journalistic fashion) has a dateline, with the places and the time period being listed. That is a help. On the negative side, the book does not have an index. On the plus side, there is a "cast of characters," which definitely is a boost to those who might forget just who is being described. That's certainly true if referring to, for example, Mykola Zlochevsky or Vadym Pozharskyi, respectively the owner and senior executive of Burisma — the corrupt Ukrainian energy company that has a key part in the story.

There are many substories over the years, as we bounce around the globe and the calendar. Overall, it reminds us that humankind once thought that the world was flat; it was later found to be round. Yet, it turns out to be different in the Biden world: It is crooked. We find that out, among other places, in a chapter called "The Dirty 51," relating how when upcoming *New York Post* reporting was going to embarrass the Bidens, dozens of former intelligence officials (41 from the CIA) pretended that the laptop was a Russian disinformation operation. Other CIA operations offered protection from IRS investigators looking at Hunter Biden's "Sugar Brother" (as Hollywood lawyer Kevin Morris is dubbed). And the agency even tried to recruit Hunter's business partners while Joe was vice president.

In our view, the strongest chapter in *The Big Guy* is the 10th, titled "FBI Coverup?" Why the question mark is included is a mystery: That is exactly what it was. As strong as the chapter is, it might have been better if it went even more into the procedure called "pre-bunking," a version of debunking supposedly intended to prevent the effectiveness of what the government or left-wing media or social media consider to be "misinformation." As it is, we do see a goodly amount about how the FBI and other government personnel were involved in that censorship.

We watch as pre-Musk Twitter (subsequently "X") gets groomed "for weeks by the FBI and other shadowy operatives to recognize the [then-impending] *Post's* story as something malign the minute it appeared. The warnings became more overtly political as the election drew closer."

Who needs outright government-controlled media if all the feds have to do is tell the media how and when to do its reporting? Facebook also got its marching orders. Here's a bit more:

> During one of its weekly meetings with the FBI in the run up to the federal election, Twitter was told to look out for "hack-and-leak operations" involving Hunter Biden and "likely" in October, according to a sworn declaration by Roth [Twitter's chief censor Yoel Roth].

That, of course, is just before the 2020 election.

The intricate censorship campaign included an initiative held at the Aspen Institute before the story appeared in the *New York Post*. (The FBI, as Devine reminds us, had the laptop in its possession for 10 months, so the bureau "knew it contained information that was damaging to Joe.") The Aspen "exercise" was gamed as a mythical scenario with this bureaucratic mouthful: "Aspen Digital Hack-and-Dump Working Group — September 2020 EXERCISE: The Burisma Leak." The targeted audience, according to *The Big Guy*, included

> social media executives, national security reporters, journalists and executives from the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, NPR, NBC, the *New Yorker*, and the Daily Beast [who were effectively "pre-bunked" to ensure they would treat the *New York Post's*] Hunter Biden laptop story the following month with suspicion, and easily succumb to the lie that it was a Russian disinformation operation.

Devine is not exaggerating when she notes that it took a "whole constellation of government and private organizations to pre-bunk and then crush the story of alleged Biden corruption on October 14, 2020." That's no joke, as Joe likes to say.

Meanwhile, the Biden "campaign boasted after the election that the pre-bunking of the [*New York*] *Post's* story was no accident but the product of meticulous planning."

How much of that was Joe Biden himself aware of? Probably very little. That's what lackeys and ideological minions are for.

Miranda Devine

x.com/mirandadevine

Ukrainian Prosecutor-general Gets Railroaded

One of the lesser-known characters in *The Big Guy* is a Ukrainian who was a target of Joe Biden, as some might remember from a rather famous, or infamous, video of a 2018 event hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations. The name of Chapter 22 of the book under review is direct, quoting the remark that Joe made publicly: "Son of a [B**ch], He Got Fired." The episode involved is complicated and contested. However, Miranda Devine gives "special thanks" to Viktor Shokin, referring to him as the "hon-

est Ukrainian former prosecutor-general," citing him for the "hours he spent patiently explaining how Joe Biden railroaded him. In the middle of a war, after multiple assassinations, it took enormous courage not to be silenced."

His story, probably unfamiliar to most, is a key one in the book — and, yes, he was fired at the behest of the Joe Biden. He was, as described in *The Big Guy*, investigating Burisma and its owner Mykola Zlochevsky (who paid Hunter Biden $83,000 a month to sit on the company's board) before Shokin was ousted. Shokin had planned to interview Hunter and Devon Archer (Hunter's friend and business partner). Archer, as you might recall from the news (and as is reported in the book), testified in July 2023 to the House Oversight Committee, implicating Joe Biden "in his family's influence-peddling schemes." Shokin is reportedly living outside Kyiv, still trying to clear his name.

We watch the maneuvering, and it isn't pretty. Eventually, as we read, it became "official US government policy that Shokin should be removed, and also that Ukraine was to receive" $1 billion in U.S. aid regardless." Yet, we are told, Joe then "called an audible," the football term for an on-the-spot decision. And, at some point "before Air Force 2 landed in Kyiv on December 7, 2015, Joe decided to force Shokin's removal by tying it to the $1 billion aid."

Viktor Shokin
AP Images

Hunter's Unremitting Shield

Anyone feeling sorry for Hunter Biden, for whatever reason, is unlikely to do so after reading this book, especially when one watches him doing his utmost to get out of an earlier child-support obligation for a born-out-of-wedlock child who is now living in Arkansas. "Hunter wanted nothing to do with her [the child's mother and his former lover — whom he met at what we are told was his favorite strip joint in D.C.] or their blonde, blue-eyed little girl," Navy, now age six.

A local lawyer found himself "facing off against Hunter's four high-powered super lawyers" as Hunter tried to get out of his responsibilities. Hunter's "Sugar Brother" (Kevin Morris) "orchestrated" Hunter's legal defense, which, as we see throughout the book, sometimes consisted of as many as 20 lawyers. At the end, the monthly support was about a quarter of what the mother and Hunter had originally agreed to. There was also, as Devine somewhat charitably puts it, only a "grudging acknowledgment" from Joe and Jill Biden about their seventh grandchild. Then, the Bidens broke their tradition of having Christmas stockings, bearing the names of their grandchildren and even pets, hanging in the White House. In 2023, when the mother expected that Navy's name finally would also be on display, "there was no display at all."

Elsewhere, Devine reminds us about how the Department of Justice slow-walked and sabotaged the criminal probe of Hunter in Delaware. Meanwhile, the Bidens were holding parties for foreign dignitaries in the White House, which also served as a home for Hunter and his then-new wife and their young son. While the investigation was ongoing, we see how much justice and setting a good example truly means to the Bidens and their team. In actuality, they're more like hypocrites who preach by the yard, but practice by the inch. Attending one of these state dinners, along with Hunter and Joe, is Attorney General Merrick Garland. Devine does acknowledge that Garland

> was careful not to be photographed anywhere near the First Son, but the optics were appalling, as numerous critics pointed out.
>
> "Hunter and Merrick hanging out at Joe's place?" Tennessee Republican congressman Andrew Ogles tweeted, "Classic Biden Crime Family."

The book ends before all the charges against Hunter had been fully addressed (and publication also came after President Biden dropped out of — or, more accurately, was pushed from — his reelection effort). In the meantime (and this is covered by Devine), the delaying did help Hunter. As the author writes:

> The successful obstruction of the IRS financial investigation of Hunter meant that the most serious charges from 2014 and 2015 were excluded and nobody would be held legally accountable for the Biden family's global influence-peddling operation during Joe's vice-presidency, or for the government-wide cover-up.

Then in September of this year, avoiding what could have been an embarrassing trial, Hunter pleaded guilty to the federal tax case against him; sentencing was set for December.

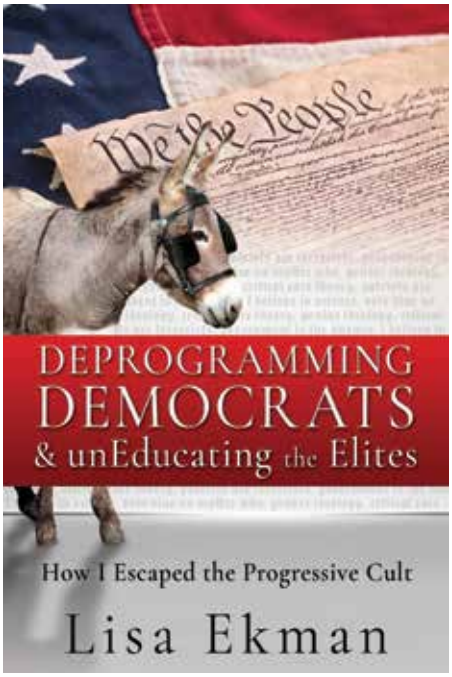
What about the whistleblowers, also stars of this account, whose careers were endangered? "For their efforts," writes Devine in *The Big Guy's* final chapter, they were "retaliated against by the IRS, abandoned by the DOJ watchdog and sued by Hunter's well-funded legal attack dogs."

How about the president's pardon power? Joe Biden has repeatedly said, and the White House has echoed this promise, that he would not pardon his son. We'll see. Politics is, after all, the most promising of careers. ■

Escaping a Cult

by Veronika Kyrylenko

***Deprogramming Democrats & unEducating the Elites: How I Escaped the Progressive Cult*,** by Lisa Ekman, Maitland, Florida: Liberty Hill Publishing, 2024, 222 pages, paperback.



"Admitting you are wrong is never easy. Admitting you are wrong about everything is next to impossible," writes Lisa Ekman in her new book *Deprogramming Democrats & unEducating the Elites: How I Escaped the Progressive Cult*. In it, she describes her spiritual and intellectual awakening to the reality of the looming tyranny built by the party she held in high regard and considered her own.

A refined intellectual boasting multiple advanced degrees from prestigious universities, Ekman had been a well-connected D.C. insider for 28 years, entrenched in progressive circles.

Her "deprogramming" began when a foray into healthcare-related topics, spurred by her mother's battle with cancer, left her disturbed by the apparent contradiction between government expert advice and fundamental medical principles. This dissonance, she reflected, became the initial hairline fracture in the dam withholding the deluge of truth from her consciousness. Yet, despite the breach, the dam held firm.

It held even when she, a self-described old-school classical liberal, witnessed the rampant censorship of medical professionals questioning or criticizing government policies. In fact, she "consciously resisted" questioning the government while also acknowledging the fact that if the government "allowed questioning and a thorough examination of the data and evidence, they would lose the argument."

What ultimately enlightened and liberated Ekman was love. After meeting her soulmate, a man with a grounded worldview, she reluctantly heeded his counsel to embark on independent research, starting with Covid-related matters and extending to all domains she believed she understood. This first step of the transformative journey marked a pivotal point in her life, forever altering her perspective.

For three years since then, Ekman has spent her time "rebuilding [her] self-esteem" and figuring out the mechanisms of manipulation and brainwashing that led people to "fight each other and prevent us from uniting and rising up against the system."

How was she tricked into joining the cult? How have seemingly well-intended, well-educated people such as Ekman become mindless tools in the hands of those looking to install a tyrannical regime in America? In search of the answers, Ekman looks into indoctrination techniques used in the American education system, along with government and media censorship and propaganda, dedicating a third of her book to dissecting these topics. In one insightful chapter, "Why the Tools Worked on the Left," she examines how the spiritual and psychological foundations of both children and adults can make them vulnerable to mind control.

Perhaps one of the most important insights revealed in the book is the inherent limitation and fallibility of human intelligence when not accompanied by critical thinking and moral discernment. A person might have advanced degrees from premier universities and be an expert in his or her field of knowledge, yet fanatically serve a political cult that thrives on the lowest and most destructive human impulses and emotions, such as fear, hate, and resentfulness. "I just could not wrap my mind around the concept that somebody as smart as I had been told I was (and believed I was), someone who was as educated as I was, someone who was as successful as I was, had been deceived and wrong for so long," Ekman laments. Not surprisingly, she says, religion and morality are under systematic attack by the Left.

Exposing the naked reality of the ongoing communist Cultural Revolution in America and the concentrated efforts to turn the Land of the Free into a communist regime, Ekman says she hopes to help her fellow Americans wake up and save our constitutional Republic. Reflecting on practical recommendations for "deprogramming Democrats," Ekman told *The New American* in an interview recorded this past April in Bucharest, Romania, that there's no concrete algorithm for achieving that. Yet, one might want to start with getting to know a person, asking questions, and learning what he or she is truly passionate about. As an example, ask people "how they came to the conclusion that it is ok to give hormones to or perform a ['gender-reassignment'] surgery on a twelve-year-old." Ekman suggests that without firm moral and ethical foundations, individuals aligned with leftist ideologies often find themselves trapped in a perpetual state of cognitive dissonance and, akin to the citizens of Orwell's Oceania, compelled to accept and internalize contradictory beliefs. In this state of cognitive dissonance, individuals are subjected to the exhausting mental gymnastics of reconciling conflicting ideas until they reach a breaking point. Ekman contends that it is at this juncture that the opportunity arises to illuminate the truth amid the pervasive darkness of deceit, offering a chance to liberate others from the shackles of ideological indoctrination. This assertion underscores her belief in the transformative power of truth and the importance of challenging falsehoods that threaten to corrupt the essence of one's soul.

While the book covers a lot of ground, Ekman utilizes her superior research and analytical skills masterfully to convey information in a succinct and effective manner, leaving readers with the optimistic feeling that there are many leftists whose

eyes were opened and whose hearts were changed for the better during the disastrous pandemic years. ■

Exposing Trump's True Character

by Andrew Muller

The Man You Don't Know, documentary, 1 hr., 29 min., released Oct. 25, 2024.

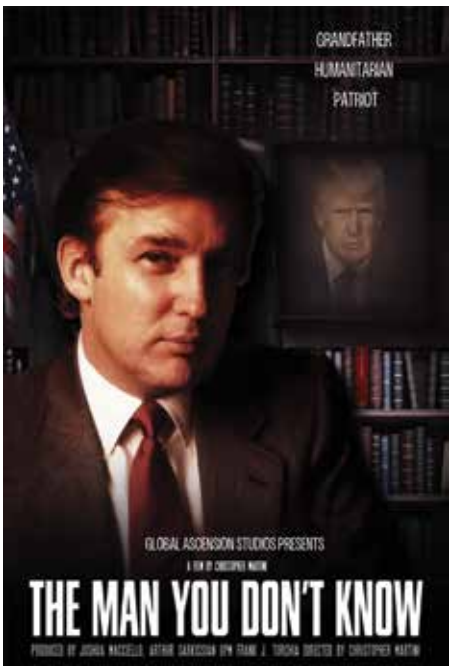
Many Americans see Donald Trump through the lens of the more than nine years of negative media coverage that began when he announced his presidential candidacy at Trump Tower in June 2015. Inflammatory adjectives such as "racist," "misogynist," "fascist," and "egomaniac" have been used to describe him. However, his closest friends, colleagues, and family paint a completely different picture in the new documentary *The Man You Don't Know*.

"With anything in life, there is another side to the story, and that's what this movie is," director Christopher Martini told *The New American*. "This movie is literally showing that other side, where no one has really attempted to do that."

"What if I come up with something that just turns me off?" Martini asked himself upon accepting the project. "And I can tell you, that didn't happen. And by talking to his family directly, you see the children that he raised are so amazing and remarkable. That to me, that said it all. And it was sort of like this wonderful validation for something that I already felt from the beginning."

Produced by Global Ascension Studios, the documentary contains testimonies regarding Trump's character and deeds from people such as Peter Ticktin, Trump's classmate at the New York Military Academy; actor and musician Frank Stallone (the younger brother of actor Sylvester Stallone); wrestler Hulk Hogan; Donald Trump, Jr.; Eric Trump; Lara Trump; and many more.

The film, released October 25, resurrects rare footage, photographs, and interviews of Trump throughout his life,



weaving together a narrative revealing a man who stood on America-first and family-first principles long before entering politics.

Putting aside campaigning and policy, the movie depicts Trump as a generous man going to great lengths to help those in need, often never receiving any recognition for his philanthropic efforts.

One story of such generosity in the film documents the death of Georgia farmer Lenard Dozier Hill, who committed suicide the morning his land was to go up for auction for lack of payment. Hill hoped his life-insurance policy would provide the necessary funds for his wife and daughter to pay off the land, which had belonged to his family for 100 years.

Not knowing the life-insurance policy had an exemption for suicide, his wife, Annabelle, and daughter, Betsy Sharp — who appear in the movie — were left destitute. Trump read the story in the newspaper and decided to step in, helping pay off the final $78,000 on the $300,000 debt.

This story and many others highlight a Donald Trump who is completely different from what the mainstream media would have the American people believe.

Peter Ticktin, a lawyer who has known Trump for nearly 63 years and who appears in the film, told *The New American* what Trump was like as a young man:

> When he was my captain at the New York Military Academy, all the guys loved him.... All the other captains would kind of rule with a little bit of sadism, a little bit of corporal punishment, or maybe a lot. With Donald, it wasn't like he usually did, and he never did. He always was a wonderful guy, and you just worked even harder for him because you never wanted to disappoint such a person. And that is how it was when he was 17…. He is still that 17-year-old kid with the same ideals that he's always had, except he knows a lot more now."

The film also includes a brief indictment of the UN's Agenda 2030, delivered by an unlikely messenger: WWE wrestler and celebrity Hulk Hogan. The 71-year-old, who appears extensively in the movie, condemns globalist efforts to control what the American people do with their lives, even taking jabs at the Bill Gates-backed push to eat bugs.

TNA senior editor Alex Newman and this reviewer were invited by Global Ascension Studios to attend the red-carpet premiere of *The Man You Don't Know* hosted at the Mar-a-Lago Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on October 22, 2024.

We interviewed Trump's closest friends and colleagues, and their sentiment was clear and unanimous: Trump loves God, family, and country.

Trump's selflessness as portrayed in the documentary was also on display at the premiere; he arrived at the event late in the evening after jetting across the nation campaigning all day. He spoke to the crowd for 20 minutes, shook hands, signed autographs, and took photographs with guests.

Many members of the press were invited to the event, an organizer revealed to *The New American*, but most neglected to accept the rare invitation to the Trump's home.

The mainstream media manipulates the population by endlessly broadcasting hoaxes about Donald Trump's life and presidency. *The Man You Don't Know* offers a rare peek behind the curtain into what the media does not want you to know about one of the most significant leaders in Western history. ■

TAKING ACTION

Food Control Is People Control

by William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society

Wit_Photo/Adobe Stock

In 1966, The John Birch Society exposed the hoax, driven by the federal government, that American farmers were overproducing food. Dan van Gorder exposed this in his book *Ill Fares the Land: The Famine Planned for America*, which was published by JBS affiliate Western Islands. A study of the facts that revealed a conspiracy had been constructed by communists in the federal government to shift the country to being more dependent upon food imports.

This began in earnest in 1933 with the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which allowed the federal government to buy agricultural surpluses and pay farmers to not grow crops, in an attempt to raise prices by limiting "overproduction."

Van Gorder wrote, "The overproduction hoax was originated, not to help the farmer, but to weld the chains of slavery on him as the initial step in the socialization of the entire American economy.… It was devised, not by loyal defenders of constitutional government, but by a small group dominated by trained agents of Communist infiltration."

This was no joke or exaggeration. In the book, the author named names and provided proof of the Harold Ware communist cell, which included Alger Hiss, the infamous Soviet spy and first secretary-general of the United Nations.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1787 to George Washington, "Agriculture ... is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals & happiness." And in his autobiography he warned, "Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

It is easy to see why farming is so important for would-be tyrants to control. Recall that many communist revolutions began with "agrarian reform." Since 1933, more unconstitutional regulations and subsidies have tied the hands of farmers, driven them to dependency on government, and led many into bankruptcy.

According to Valley Food Storage, a company that offers survival food, "Many think that our nation's farmers are in control of our food supply, but that is incorrect. There are approximately 20 large companies that dominate the world's food supply. They control what comes to you and at what price. They have a tight grasp on the control of the world's food source, which makes them the core of the issue. Farmers have little to no say, and for that reason, we are witnessing farmers leaving their land in droves."

An August 27 headline from *The Epoch Times* should have given America a wake-up call regarding the quality of our food. It read, "More Than Half of Commercial Baby Foods Are Unhealthy."

Unfortunately, modern farming and food-processing techniques, pushed by government incentives and demand, have yielded major health problems among the population.

MIT scientist Stephanie Seneff, Ph.D. wrote in the June 24, 2024 issue of *The New American*, "Many diseases and chronic conditions have been rising in prevalence over time, in step with the rise in glyphosate usage on core crops."

In addition, Dr. Casey Means declared that Americans' health is being destroyed. Big Ag is partnering with Big Pharma and Big Medicine to make us sick and keep us sick at the earliest age possible, so we are not only lifelong patients who never really get any better, but also more easily controlled.

This is a problem of the government's own making. This is by design, to make us more dependent upon not just our own government, but *world* government. Under this world government comes a radical environmental agenda that wants to see the Earth to go back to its natural state, as humans are viewed as the enemy. The UN's Agenda 2030 is the main project being used to transform the world. It seeks to control every human decision and leave no one behind.

If you cherish freedom and want to preserve an America where your kids and grandkids can prosper, then you have to get involved and take action. Join The John Birch Society to build a bulwark of freedom in your state to best defend against federal and international tyranny.

This is a must, no matter who wins presidential elections. Start today at JBS.org. ■

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The Life of John Birch

John Birch, a young American who was brutally murdered by the Chinese Communists in 1945, 10 days after the end of World War II, has been called the first casualty of World War III. "With his death and in his death the battle lines were drawn, in a struggle from which either communism or Christian-style civilization must emerge with one completely triumphant, the other completely destroyed."

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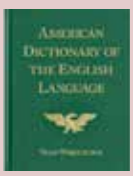

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